

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

SEPTEMBER 1941



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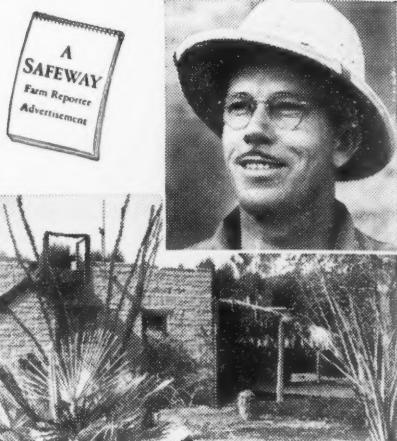
TO COLORADO RANCHERS

As recently as 1929, dates were regarded as a "curiosity" crop in the hot, fertile Coachella Valley of California. By 1940 Coachella Valley date growers harvested eleven million pounds, their biggest crop. About 95% of all American-grown dates are produced here. The late King Feisal of Iraq (Persia), Old World date center, wrote: "We who have been growing dates for centuries have never seen such fine dates in our own country."

My host in the desert was Mr.

William (Bill) Cook, who has grown up with the Coachella Valley date industry. The other photo shows Mr. Cook's adobe home which he built himself.

Bill Cook's place is between Palm Springs and Indio. Many of his trees are just coming into bearing (date trees bear at 7 years — mature at 12 years). Since 1937 Mr. Cook has been president of the United Date Growers Association, a cooperative serving about 85% of Coachella Valley growers.

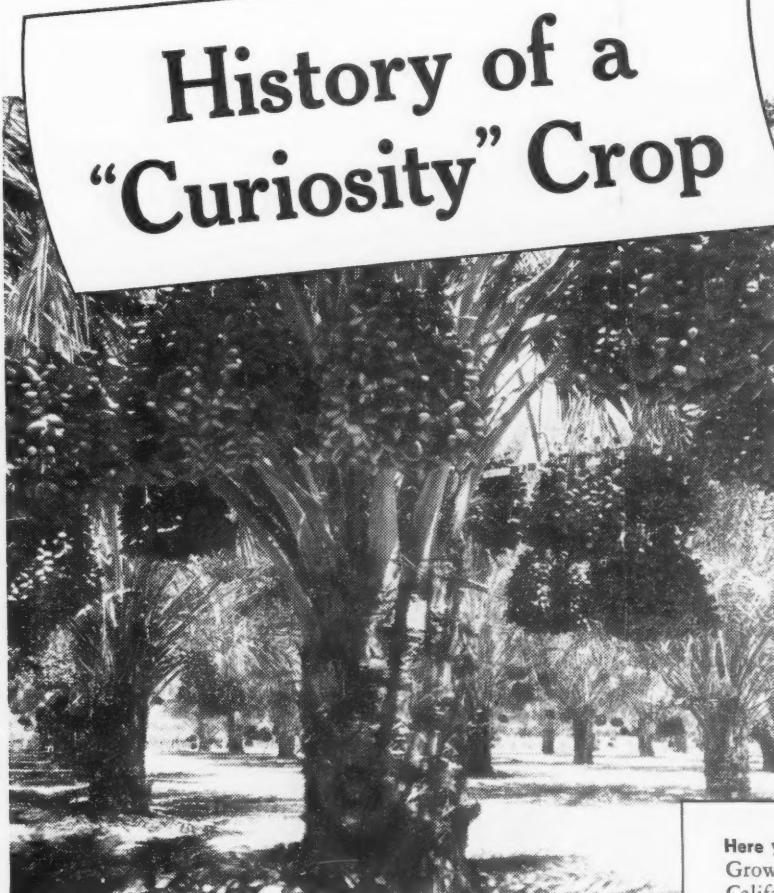


"WITH 95% of all U. S. date production here in the valley, our growers early turned to cooperative marketing," Bill Cook told me.

"The co-op from which our present Association developed was formed in 1920. For many years my father served as president. The depression came along when our production was almost doubling every year, and for a time date prices fell off badly. A merchandising program was set up in 1932 and by 1936 the market for dates had strengthened.

"Our present association, the United Date Growers, has been able to reduce packaging costs while providing uniform grades and a dependable supply. Cooperation given us by Safeway and other food chains has been a big factor in decreasing distribution costs and improving returns to growers.

"What we date growers need, of course, is increasing consumption of dates to keep up with our growing production. Safeway stores do a fine selling job on dates and move large quantities — they help make our industry possible." —TOLD TO THE SAFeway FARM REPORTER



It takes a great deal of skill and hard work to grow dates. Bill Cook told me about it. "In the spring, each bunch of blossoms must be pollinated by hand to control quality. The date bunches are also reduced in size, and only 12 to 15 bunches are left on each tree. In August, wax paper is tied around each bunch of dates for protection against rain or birds. Harvesting starts in September. Often there are seven pickings as only ripe dates can be picked each time around. Date palms grow up to 40 feet high, so both pollinating and harvesting are ladder operations. Irrigation is especially important in growing dates. We use well water here in the valley and during hot weather we often find it necessary to irrigate every week"

Here you see dates being packed for the United Date Growers Association, for which Calavo Growers of California acts as selling agency. "The fresh-picked dates are fumigated, cleaned and graded," Bill Cook told me. "Some are dried on trays and others, too dry, are steamed. Packed dates go into cold storage — we growers know it's important to keep dates cool to preserve their finest eating quality"



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Volume XXIII

SEPTEMBER 1941

Number 4

'THEY UNDERSTOOD WAR'

By ALBERT W. GRAY

COMMENTING ON THE ROLE played by this country in the World War of 1914, the German field marshal, Von Hindenberg, said: "Her brilliant, if pitiless, war industry had entered the services of patriotism and had not failed it. Under the compulsion of military necessity, a ruthless autocracy was at work, and rightly, even in this land at the portals of which the Statue of Liberty flashes its blinding light across the sea. They understood war."

Too often the crushing increase of commodity prices has played a major part in the tragedy told by the economic history of conflicts. Side by side, labor and foodstuffs take an appalling toll of living costs. The two are inextricably intertwined. With the advance of either, the other seeks a corresponding level.

The economic experiences of the years 1917 and 1918 have apparently taught a much needed lesson by the hardships of those times, that will result in present-day benefits. August, 1917, the Lever Act was passed "To prevent, locally or generally, scarcity, monopolization, hoarding, injurious speculation, manipulation, and private controls" effecting the "supply, distribution, and movement" of necessities during the war. With this was included, "The President is authorized to make such regulations and to issue such orders as are essential effectively to carry out the provisions of this act."

A year later threatening increases in labor costs were met with the famous "work or fight" letter of President Wilson on September 13, 1918: "I desire that you return to work. If you refuse, each of you will be barred from employment in any war industry in the community in which the strike occurs for a period of one year. During that time . . . the Draft Board will be instructed to reject any claim of exemption based on your usefulness in war production." Four days later the Smith & Wesson employees were back on their jobs.

With these incidents in mind, the price control activities of Congress, gasoline restrictions, the recent order of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supplies fixing cotton textile ceilings take on a new and pregnant meaning. On May 19 Price Administrator Henderson explained that the order fixing cotton yarn prices set the price

below the current market so that the industry should not assume price ceilings were to be at speculative levels, created in anticipation of price freezing.

Compared to the wild and rampant rises in price of the days preceding the entrance of this country into the World War a quarter of a century ago, commodity prices, until the last few months, have been markedly temperate. According to the retail food prices published by the Department of Labor, round steak, selling at an average price of 35.9 cents a pound during the year of 1939, reached a high point of 40.3 cents in September, 1940, and in March of this year sold at retail at only 2.1 cents above 1939 prices. Pork chops, averaging 30.1 cents in 1939, had increased to 32.9 cents in September, 1940. In March of this year they were at 29.6 cents—half a cent below the 1939 average. Sliced bacon averaging in 1939, 32.1 cents, sold in March, 1941, at 32 cents.

In a survey of the *Monthly Labor Review*, covering living costs for the year ending October, 1940, in five cities, located, respectively, in Alabama, California, Connecticut, Indiana, and Texas, all living expenses had increased only a trifle over 0.5 per cent above the October, 1939, level. The average food prices declined during that period almost 0.25 per cent. By January 15 of this year they had advanced 2.1 per cent over the October, 1940, level and 0.06 per cent over the level of October, 1939.

During the past few months meat and other commodity prices have taken to the road, spiraling towards the heights of inflation, while, on the other hand, the machinery for this emergency, set up during the 1914-18 war, is being methodically put into motion.

The history of livestock prices for the years 1918 and 1919 show clearly that export buying is not the cause of the rising price levels. In August, 1917, the French supply of cattle had decreased 16.6 per cent from the 1913 supply; sheep, 33 per cent during that period; and hogs, 38 per cent.

In England, 36,720 tons of meat passed through the great Smithfield Market during July, 1914; 29,597 tons during that month in 1915; 23,954 in

July, 1916, and 20,802 in the corresponding period of 1917.

The task of supplementing these dwindling supplies in France and in England fell squarely on the shoulders of the livestock industry in this country. From 1906 to 1914, beef shipments to Europe had steadily declined until at the outbreak of the war they were negligible. However, during the twelve months ending with June, 1915, the volume of meat exports to Europe increased twenty-seven times over the preceding year. Pork exports in 1918 were 360 per cent over shipments in 1914.

In spite of this enormous export volume, 57,483,000 hogs were marketed in 1917; 69,854,700 in 1918, while on January 1, 1917, there were still 67,503,000 hogs in this country; 70,978,000 on the first of January a year later, and 75,587,000 on January 1, 1919. On January 1, 1919, the cattle in the United States were more than at any time in the history of the country.

The figures of the Department of Agriculture, published in February of this year, show 68,769,000 cattle in 1940, compared with an annual average of 61,200,000 for the years 1928 to 1932; 54,473,000 sheep for 1940, compared with 50,482,000 during 1928 to 1932; 58,313,000 hogs in 1940, against an annual average of 45,526,000 from 1934 to 1938.

The increase of 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent in food prices for the thirty days from May 15 to June 15 of this year, with major advances marked in pork and bacon, are obviously not occasioned by the exhaustion of our sources of supply. According to the bulletin of the War Industries Board, "The number of cattle slaughtered in 1918 totaled approximately 2,000,000 more than in 1917, representing a net increase of 1,000,000,000 pounds of beef."

The same production facilities exist today that in 1917 and 1918 supplied meat to Europe and had still available at the end of the period the biggest supply of cattle the industry had ever known. Today's price situation, left unrestrained, would soon trace the century old trajectory of the economic war rocket, leaving in its downward path another depression of possibly even greater want and misery.

In 1931, testifying before the War Policies Commission, Bernard Baruch, formerly chairman of the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense during the first World War and member of the War Industries Board at

that time, clearly outlined the plan evolved to meet future war-time inflation:

"We need a method of freezing the whole price structure—by proclamation to decree that every price in the whole national pattern as of that determined date (an antecedent date near to the declaration of war) shall be the maximum that may henceforth be charged for anything. The student of the economic history of war will say, 'There is nothing in this. Every nation with a debased currency has tried to force acceptance of it at a fiat figure. None has ever succeeded.'

Over sixteen centuries ago the Roman emperor, Diocletian, set the price of between 700 and 800 commodities. Pork was decreed to sell at 7.3 cents a pound; beef at 4.9 cents; ham at 12 cents; lamb at 7.3 cents. Eggs were 5.1 cents a dozen. Wheat was 33.6 cents a bushel. A day laborer was decreed 10.8 cents a day and his "keep;" a carpenter, 21.6 cents a day; a stone mason, 32.4 cents. A writer of that period tells the result: "He tried to fix by law the prices of articles offered for sale. Thereupon for the veriest trifles much blood was shed, and, out of fear, nothing was offered for sale and the scarcity grew worse."

During the French Revolution an attempt was made to fix commodity prices. On November 7, 1793, Collot d'Herbois wrote the Convention at Paris: "The population of Lyons is 130,000 souls at least. There are not provisions enough for three days."

In the American Revolution, a similarly futile attempt was made. In June, 1777, John Eliot wrote from Boston: "We are all starving here since the plague addition to the regulating bill. People will not bring in provisions and we cannot procure the common necessities of life. What we shall do I do not know."

The testimony of Mr. Baruch continues: "None ever succeeded." One did succeed. It was the price fixing policy of the World War. The distinction between that and previous attempts was that, for price fixing in 1918, the whole of industry was mobilized and under control of the government in a sense never even imagined in any other country or in any other war. . . . Another distinction between all previous attempts with which I am familiar and the present suggestion is that what is here proposed is that we apply to organization, methods—not after rampant inflation has run away with our economic structure but at the very outset. We now propose to check inflation before it occurs."

The work of the War Policies Commission a decade ago has not gone for naught. "Line upon line, here a little and there a little," price controls are being adopted that have been learned from the achievements that called forth that grudging praise, "They understood war."

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WYOMING ASSOCIATION

By RUSSELL THORP

for the cattle growers of Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, and the Dakotas.

For example, the following, a review of a detective report, one of many, illustrates the scope of territory covered and work accomplished:

"As your inspector since April 5, 1877, and on active service since that time, I respectfully submit the following report of my work:

"On April 29, 1877, I recovered 13 head of horses stolen from Pratte and Ferris Ranch on Rawhide Creek. All were delivered to the proper owners. Between the first and tenth of May, 1877, I recovered 12 head of horses from Indians at Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies. All were delivered to their proper owners. On the 5th day of August, 1876, I recovered 19 head of horses from Indians at Fort Reno, I. T. (Indian Territory). The horses were driven back to Cheyenne and returned to their owners. On the first of September I recovered one U. S. horse and delivered to Capt. Gillis at Camp Carlin. On the 15th of December, 35 horses were stolen from W. C. Irvine ranch on Horse Creek. I followed the thieves for four days, overhauling them and capturing them. . . . The stock was driven to Cheyenne and returned to their owners. Making a total of 83 horses, recovered by me and returned to their owners since April 5, 1877. . . .

"This, gentlemen, is almost a complete record of my work. I will only add that since I have been in your service I have always endeavored to protect the interest of every Stockgrower in Laramie County. . . . —W. C. LYKINS, Stock Inspector, Laramie County, Wyoming.

THE records of the association have been preserved in part through filing press reports of early-day activities. The following press items are of interest:

"Two herds of Matadore cattle, numbering 4,500 head V brand, passed through Lusk Monday on the way to Montana."

* * *

"Two herds, numbering 4,300, passed through Lusk last week. They belonged to Lee & Scott and were being driven to Montana."

* * *

"A 'Hashknife' herd of 2,000 head passed through Lusk on the way to ranges near Stoneville, Montana."

These herds were coming into the State of Wyoming, the Dakotas, and the Northwest territory over the Texas and Oregon trails at the peak rate of 200,000 cattle a year.

They had lively times in those days, as will be noted from the following:

"An OW outfit, with a full force of cowhands and wagons, passed through Lusk Tuesday on the way to the state line roundup."

* * *

"Wednesday night two pistol shots

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rang out in the still night air. Citizens investigated. They found it to be a family quarrel between Charley Boyse and his wife Lou. She shot him through one finger and he beat her on the head with a six-shooter. No arrests were made."

* * *

"J. S. Gustine of the firm of Harris & Gustine, got his family here just in time to get a bad scare by the reckless shooting the night of the 3rd. One bullet passed through their tent and only a few inches from a sleeping child. We hope this dangerous pastime is over in Lusk."

* * *

"A pair of coyotes at the edge of town Sunday kept up such a howl that guests at the Elkhorn Hotel had a hard time sleeping. George Wiley ran them off with his Winchester."

* * *

"There was considerable 'corn-popping' going on last night, which disturbed our sleep. The cow punchers appeared to be having a large time."

* * *

"Doc Cornett, one of the squarest boys in the territory, has purchased the dance hall in Lusk, and among other attractions has opened a monte bank with a \$500 bank roll."

* * *

"It is reported here that Sweetwater County has had another fatal shooting affray, the principals of which are known in Lusk. The victim was a one-legged cowboy named Bill Gross, who created some excitement in Green River last summer by lassoing several Chinamen and dragging them about the streets. Gross was killed by another cowboy who beat him on the draw."

* * *

"There was a lot of promiscuous shooting on Main Street this week by irresponsible cowpunchers who came to town and got loaded up on a bad brand of bug juice. To hear the incessant crack of the six shooter, one would be led to believe that Lusk is still a frontier town. Why can't we have a little law and order here? Of course we know the shooting is done in sport, but we have gotten tired of putting new window lights in The Herald office just to have them shot out. What we need is a deputy sheriff located here permanently."

* * *

"A drunken cowboy rode his horse down the sidewalk on Main Street yesterday. The marshal tried to stop him by grabbing a stirrup, but he fell down and sprained an ankle, while the cowboy continued his gallop down the sidewalk, fired a couple of shots and disappeared in a cloud of dust, while the marshal hobbled to the drugstore to get his ankle bathed in some horse liniment."

OLD-TIMERS will recall the cattle wars. The following two letters are of more than passing interest:

"I have seen all sorts of reports bearing upon J. X. _____ and Nolan gang stopping the roundups from working in the Hole-in-the-Wall country. They will have a hard time of it. Neither the CY boys, the Keystone nor the Pugsley outfits are hunting a fight. We are all working men and only want such cattle as belong to our employers and it is an indisputable fact that the Hole-in-the-Wall is a hiding place for thieves, and has been for years. Thousands of dollars

worth of cattle have been stolen by these outlaws, brands burned out and their own brands substituted. Their friends then can help them to dispose of the burned cattle. Every year I have gotten back cattle from there that were taken from their mothers and lots of cattle on which the brands were changed. I am going to work that country and have asked the sheriffs of Natrona and Johnson counties to work with us and see that everybody is treated right. The time has come for all honest working men to declare themselves in favor of law and justice. And, if these men want to fight us, when we know we are right, I say fight."

"R. M. DIVINE."

The reply:

"Bob Devine you think you have played hell you have just begun you will get your dose there is men enuff up here to kill you. We are going to get you or lose twelve more men you must stay out of this country if you want to live we are not going to take any chances any more but will get you any way we can we want one hair apiece out of that damned old chin of yours you have give us the worst of it all the way through and you must stay out or die. you had better keep your damed outfit out if you want to keep them. don't stick that damned old head of yours in this country again if you do not want it shot off we are twelve men appointed a purpose to get you if you don't stay out of here."

"REVENGE GANGE."

It is doubtful if the ordinary layman fully realizes the ramifications and problems of the early day cattlemen. They were manifold and involved—an endless task which only the most courageous dared tackle. The cowman became an institution in Wyoming, as he did wherever he hoped to succeed amid the ranges of the fertile and growing West. In the early stages of the industry, there were no fence lines, no competition on the range. There was danger as well as adventure, but only men of mettle could survive the rigors of all kinds of weather and the elements, or fight off the raider or Indians. Restrictive livestock laws, ravages of diseases, clashes over range lines, disposal of mavericks, and many other equally important problems brought prompt realization among the growing group of cattle growers of Wyoming that only through organization could the industry be placed upon a sensible business basis. Not alone did their opera-

tions touch the far-flung reaches of our own state, but, through lapping over on adjoining border states, these problems became all the more important.

The Wyoming Stock Growers' Association was progressive and aggressive. Its main object was to protect its members at the central markets, more or less at loading points, and it built up an organization of this kind that may have had an equal but no superior. It branched off into range protection, and here it met the hardest kind of problems. The work of the association was a wholesome check in many cases upon the class of citizens who looked upon range cattle as common property.

Texas fever was brought into the country by the trail herds, and the menace of foot-and-mouth disease that broke out in Kansas in 1882 led to a special meeting where a resolution was passed calling on Congress to enact a national law to create a bureau, providing expert "physicians" to devise ways and means for the sanitary protection of livestock throughout the nation. Hence, a bill was introduced in Congress creating what is now known as the Bureau of Animal Industry.

THE disposition of the Public Domain is not a new question.

A special meeting of the association was called November 18, 1879, which was of historical interest. General Williamson, commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington, called on Secretary Sturgis of the association for the views of the association members and cattlemen in general throughout Wyoming territory as to proper disposition of the public domain. It is significant that at this special meeting to consider the questions propounded by the commissioner of the General Land Office there should be debate from all angles. The minutes show that resolutions favoring the leasing of public lands were voted down, and, in summing up, the opposition was expressed in these terse words, "A heavy settlement is possible in Wyoming and much fencing, hence a sale of U. S. lands in large bodies impolitic. Present occupants as yet unable to buy." However, those in attendance at the meeting felt the necessity of expressing the viewpoint of the association,



President Charles A. Myers, Executive Committee Chairman Fred E. Warren, and Secretary-Chief Inspector Russell Thorp of the Wyoming Association.

which was done in the following resolution adopted unanimously:

"Resolved, That in our judgment the interests of stock owners would be best subserved by the continuance of the present system, which permits only the procuring of title to small tracts of land; first, because we believe the system of cash entry and graduation, and to a less extent that of leasing, is opposed to our theory of government, in that it enables individuals to acquire the monopoly and control of immense tracts of land and concentrates the business in the hands of a few men. It will work great hardships to the owners of small herds who will be unable to buy their range and must eventually leave the business.

"Resolved, That, while the unanimous sense of this association is opposed to any legislation that seeks to change the present land system of the United States, still, should such legislation be contemplated by congress, it must meet the peculiar nature and the character of the cattle business and combine the following:

"A price not to exceed 5 cents per acre; a term of years for the payment of the same and the privilege of purchase limited exclusively to actual occupants of the land."

Again we find that in 1883 the cattle-men realized the necessity of a national organization. Resolutions were adopted and a committee named, composed of A. H. Swan, John Clay, Jr., H. A. Blair, Thos. Sturgis, Col. J. H. Pratt, and Col. A. T. Babbitt, to go to Chicago to attend a convention called by the association for the purpose of organizing. The outgrowth of that meeting, which convened November 15, 1883, was the organization of the "National Cattle Growers' Association of America." It is notable that Secretary Sturgis of the Wyoming association was elected secretary of the new national organization; John Clay, treasurer; and Judge Joseph M. Carey and Mr. Clay, members of the national executive board. As a result of that organization, there has developed what is now known as the American National Live Stock Association.

The Wyoming Stock Growers' Association has continued actively down to the present day, with a steady increase in membership. Its activities are non-partisan. Many distinguished men have headed the organization in the capacity of president—prominent men elected from either political party. During its sixty-nine years of activity, the association has had sixteen presidents—all cowmen in their own right—and eight secretaries. Presidents elected to head the organization are in the following order:

M. V. Boughton; A. H. Swan, of the Swan Land and Cattle Company; N. R. Davis; Judge Joseph M. Carey, governor and United States senator; Colonel A. T. Babbitt; John Clay; William C. Irvine; John B. Kendrick, governor and United States senator; Robert D. Carey, governor and United States senator; James C. Shaw, pioneer Texas trail driver; Clare Underwood; John L. Jordan; J. Elmer Brock; Dugald R. Whitaker; Sam C. Hyatt; and the present president, Charles

A. Myers, who has the distinction of carrying on the business of the oldest outfit in the state, that of the Myers Land and Cattle Company, under the original brand established by his family in 1857.

Other distinguished men who were active in the association affairs and served on the executive committee, were: Francis E. Warren, governor and United States senator; Colonel W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill).

The secretaries, serving in the order named, have been William L. Kuykendall—the first secretary—who resigned his position in 1876 and joined the gold rush to the Black Hills; Thomas Sturgis, later police commissioner of the City of New York under Theodore Roosevelt; Thomas B. Adams; H. B. Ijams; Alice Smith; Minnie Haas; Dr. B. F. Davis, present secretary of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association; Russell Thorp, secretary-chief inspector.

THROUGH all these years the results obtained from brand inspection have developed until the service is recognized as one of the major duties of the association. Through co-operative arrangements with the states of Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Nevada, and Wyoming, joint inspection agencies have been established for the mutual protection of the cattle growers of these states. These joint inspection agencies insure closer contact as between states and more efficient and economic maintenance of the service, so that through this mutual arrangement efficient brand inspection is maintained at the principal markets extending from Kansas City to Chicago, South St. Paul, the Missouri River markets, Denver, and Ogden and North Salt Lake on the west and Billings on the north—or a total of twenty-six markets where Wyoming cattle are marketed.

As indicated before, the main business of the association is that of protecting all livestock growers of the State of Wyoming at the central markets—members and non-members alike—the inspectors demanding proof of ownership on all cattle originating in Wyoming consigned to those markets.

The following figures are of interest:

From June 1, 1930, to June 1, 1941, Wyoming cattle inspected at all markets totaled 2,508,127; number of estrays to Cheyenne office, 12,577; value of estrays to Cheyenne office, \$371,396.79; total number of estrays, proceeds held up by inspectors on which ownership was in doubt (direct to owners by commission firms by order of inspectors), 222,346; value of estrays direct to owners, \$6,661,085.25; total estrays to Cheyenne office and direct to owners, 234,923; total value estrays to Cheyenne office and direct to owners, \$7,032,481.04.

The Wyoming Stock Growers' Association several years ago established a student course for training brand inspectors. The requirements are rigid. A student must put in a certain length of time in preliminary training and study of

market rules and regulations. He is then required to take a rigid written and verbal examination. If he is successful in passing the examination, then he is given nine months additional training. If he is successful in meeting all requirements, he is officially certified as a competent brand inspector.

Thus the association continues its vigilance, as well as applying close attention to national and state affairs affecting the livestock industry both within and without the state. Membership includes every county in the state. The membership is steadily increasing and fairly divided between every county in the state. Every county is represented on the executive committee by two or three members.

At the conclusion of the sixty-ninth annual convention of the association, held at Worland, Wyoming, the following officers were elected: Charles A. Myers, Evanston, president; George A. Cross, Dubois, vice-president; M. M. Cushing, Saratoga, treasurer; Fred E. Warren, Cheyenne, chairman of executive committee; Russell Thorp, Cheyenne, secretary-chief inspector.

BEEF FATTENED ON GRASS IS AS GOOD AS FROM CORN

BEEF FROM CATTLE FATTENED on grass ripens as well as beef from cattle on grain, and it is just as juicy and flavorful. This statement, carried in the "Bulletins in Brief" column of the June PRODUCER, has created considerable interest, and we are therefore elaborating on it.

The Bureau of Animal Industry made the announcement. A three-year study by the bureau and the Virginia agricultural experiment station proved that the deciding element is the fatness of the animals. If a grass-fed animal is as fat as a grain-fed animal, the beef is just as desirable, according to the results of this work.

The investigators used corresponding rib cuts from paired carcasses of equal fatness, representing 120 animals—twenty each year fattened on good bluegrass pasture and another twenty fed on corn, cottonseed meal, and hay. After ripening the samples, they tested the "eye" muscles for chemical composition, flavor, and juice content. When the rib cuts were roasted, experienced judges could not tell which type of meat they were eating.

One cut from each carcass was ripened at 33 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit for about fifteen days. The corresponding cut was stored for fifty days. Any changes during ripening were parallel for the two types of beef. The study showed also that there was no difference in flavor between the two types of beef after either ripening period, and the quantity of juice in each case was about the same. The "grain" and "grass" beef were practically the same by the chemical and physical tests used in the laboratory—and also according to the taste test.

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YOU, ARMOUR, and NATIONAL DEFENSE

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ARMOUR AND COMPANY stands for adequate preparedness for national defense and for the preservation of our free institutions under the Constitution.

And Armour and Company is fully aware of the increasing importance of the meat industry . . . of you, the livestock raisers, of the packers, of the retailers . . . to America's pattern of life.

Briefly stated, that importance is due to the fact that good meat, well prepared and efficiently distributed . . . is destined to have an increasingly valuable place on the American bill of fare. It is destined to be increasingly vital to the nation's health and well-being . . . and efficiency.

Keeping meat on America's tables is your job and ours. It calls for the same partnership between us, and the same effective performance that has characterized that partnership in the past. It is a big job that we can perform well together.



George Eastwood
PRESIDENT

ARMOUR and COMPANY

★

ARGENTINE CORN-STORY ABOUT A SURPLUS*

By GUY L. BUSH

DOWN IN THE ARGENTINE ranchers raise and fatten their cattle for market on grass.

Grass is the cheapest and most efficient feed they have. There is plenty of it. Even with corn overflowing their cribs, cattle feeders still don't go to the bother of feeding corn, because they don't need to. From 75 to 80 per cent of the country's corn is grown for export.

Argentina is the second largest nation in Latin America, about a third the size of the United States, and strictly a farming country. The most productive area is about the size of the State of Iowa, just as fertile and just as level as any of the best land to be found in the Corn Belt.

I spent two weeks driving through this area in February of this year with Paul O. Nyhus, agricultural attaché of the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires. We visited many of the great *estancias*, as the large ranches are called, talked with landowners, tenants, farmers, farm laborers, and many of the businessmen engaged in the agricultural trades.

Practically all of last year's corn crop is backed up on the farms and ranches. Most of this corn is stored in open cribs—cribs made of No. 9 wire and lined with corn or sunflower stalks. Naturally, there has been considerable damage from grain weevil and from exposure to the weather.

"With corn so plentiful," I asked the ranchers and farmers with whom we visited, "why don't you feed it?"

Their reply was always the same, "No matter how cheap corn is, grass is cheaper."

The livestock industry of Argentina was founded on grass. Fifty per cent of the producing area of the country is still covered with rich native grass, and much of this yet unbroken prairie land is available for cultivation if and when needed.

Argentine cattle are fed out on grass because the soil of Argentina gives to grass "that something" which makes it suitable for fattening cattle and because grass-fed cattle are acceptable to the export trade. The attitude of every rancher and farmer we visited appeared to be, "Why should I bother feeding corn, no matter how cheap it is, when the grass is already there?"

ON the first day out from Buenos Aires, Mr. Nyhus asked our driver to stop at a place where he saw men about the buildings. Shortly we turned off the paved highway down a dusty lane

and came to a stop before a set of farm buildings. A gray-haired man, who I learned later had been a tenant on this farm for thirty years, came out to meet us.

This tenant and his son operated 300 acres of a 40,000-acre *estancia*. There were 161 other tenants in addition to fifty-two field workers, farm managers, bookkeepers, and others who made up the staff for an operation of that size, which is fairly representative of the region. The tenants turned 30 per cent of their crops over to the owner and furnished their own equipment. The workers were paid a daily wage.

Argentina's seasons are just reversed from ours, and the time for the 1941 corn harvest was approaching. Still, 7,000 bushels of 1940 corn, harvested almost a year before, were stored on this farm in three open, corn-stalk cribs. I asked the tenant if it was the custom in his country to store corn in that manner, exposed to the weather.

"Yes," he said, "but this is the first time since I've been farming that we've kept it so long." Normally, he explained, corn is cribbed on the farm for only a few months before it is shelled, bagged, and sent to seaport warehouses for shipment overseas. Practically all the corn in the Argentine is of the flint type, more suitable for long water hauls and more in demand by the European market than the dent corn of the United States Corn Belt.

"What are you going to do with all of this corn?" I asked.

"It's no longer mine," he said, "it belongs to the government."

In fact, practically all the corn in the whole country belongs to the government. Shortly after the harvest in May and June of 1940, the Argentine Grain Board inaugurated a corn-purchase program when it became apparent it was impossible to sell any major portion of the crop.

The government offered farmers the equivalent of about 20 cents a bushel at the farm. Eighty per cent of this was paid at the beginning of the purchase program. The balance was to be paid when the corn finally was moved into export.

With the export market cut off due to the war, the government has not been able to export the grain and has not paid the balance. Since I was there, corn has been offered for resale at the equivalent of about 5 cents a bushel.

While visiting with this tenant, we walked into a field of new corn. The ears were filled and drying in mid-February, and in sixty days the corn would be ready for husking. We estimated the field would yield sixty bushels

an acre. It was typical of many fields we saw on a 1,500-mile automobile trip through the heavy producing sections of the country.

Farmers were saying then that the 1941 corn harvest would break all previous production records. At actual harvest time in May, I understand, the estimate was revised downward somewhat, but even so the crop was larger than in 1940 and among the biggest in Argentina's history.

Near the cities in rural Argentina we saw corn that had been placed in warehouses before the government started its purchase program being moved out to make room for the current crop of wheat and flax. Several million bushels of this corn, all of it sacked, were being racked in piles on large wooden platforms along railroad rights-of-way and covered with canvas. Many of these piles contained 10,000 bushels.

We stopped to talk with a warehouseman, whose employees were busy carrying 125-pound sacks of corn on their shoulders up a movable stair to the top of a huge pile, and asked his opinion about the use to which this backlog of corn might be put.

"We shipped our 1938-39 crop out at a sacrifice," he said. "Now it looks as though the only way we can use this crop is for fuel, unless the war ends pretty quick."

Later Mr. Nyhus and I visited the sub-basement of a huge power plant in Buenos Aires. Here engineers were experimenting with the use of corn for fuel on a large scale. They were burning a mixture of 40 per cent corn and 60 per cent coal, since they had found that the hard flint corn alone burned out the grates of their furnaces. Two boilers in the plant were being refitted to burn unmixed corn.

The Argentine government has encouraged the industrial use of corn for fuel, but at the time I left the country it was not being used extensively.

The government is also giving serious consideration to the use of corn in producing fuel alcohol, although at best that probably represents no more than a partial solution. In the United States, production of fuel from corn has not advanced far for a variety of reasons—chiefly the high cost of the raw material and the abundant supply of more efficient fuels in this country. In Argentina, where corn can be purchased much more cheaply and a high percentage of oil and gas must be imported, the use for fuel of alcohol produced from corn seems to be worth all the scientific study that is being devoted to it. Certainly the Argentine scientists should have every opportunity to study any findings made in the new regional laboratories recently established in the United States.

ARGENTINA'S corn problem is typical of the situation that confronts many of our neighboring Latin American nations today. Something has happened that is

*Reprinted from *Agriculture in the Americas*.

totally outside their previous experience, and they are hard pressed to find the solution.

Along the waterfronts of large port cities, boats are not calling for the grain that lies in storage. Unused foreign shipping is tied up in the harbors. Exporters are clamoring for shipping space, but few are getting it. The Argentines' former European customers are getting their supplies over the shortest possible ocean haul, just as they did in the first World War. They aren't venturing over the long hazardous route to the South Atlantic and the South Pacific if they can avoid it.

Both rural and city people are feeling the pinch of lost export markets and piled-up surpluses. I got the impression that the city people were groping for a solution to a problem they didn't fully understand.

The "man in the street" in the cities knew something had hit him, but he didn't know for certain what it was. The farmer knew what had hit him, but he didn't know for certain what to do about it.

It reminded me of the Middle West in 1930 and 1931, when we were going through the first severe effects of the depression and hadn't got even close to a way out.

Argentina has extensive unused land reserves and is not approaching the production of corn and other export agricultural crops that it could achieve if world prices justified placing new land in cultivation. Curtailment of grain acreage is not indicated as a soil-conservation measure there, as it is in the United States. The Argentine corn farmer, therefore, goes on planting normal acreages of corn, the crop for which he is equipped and on which he has depended for years. He has little alternative.

The Argentine government is helping all that it can, through its grain-purchase programs and the construction of warehouses for the long-time storage of small grains.

I talked to a good many people high in government circles about the problem. I asked them what solution they saw. No one, no matter how well informed he was, could give me a clear-cut answer, but there seemed to be general agreement on these points:

(1) Argentina's troubles are not entirely warborn, nor will they automatically end when the war is over.

(2) Lacking a better market for the staple cereal crops, Argentina needs and is already turning toward agricultural diversification, development of small home industries, and expanded trade with the other Americas.

(3) The United States and the Argentine, by developing greater mutual understanding of each other and by presenting their resources and their bargaining power unitedly to the world, can co-operate without endangering the economic welfare of any particular

group or the independence of either country.

My trip convinced me that somewhere within that framework lies the solution of the agricultural trade problems, not only of the Argentine but also of the other non-tropical Latin American countries whose major farm products are similar to those of the United States.

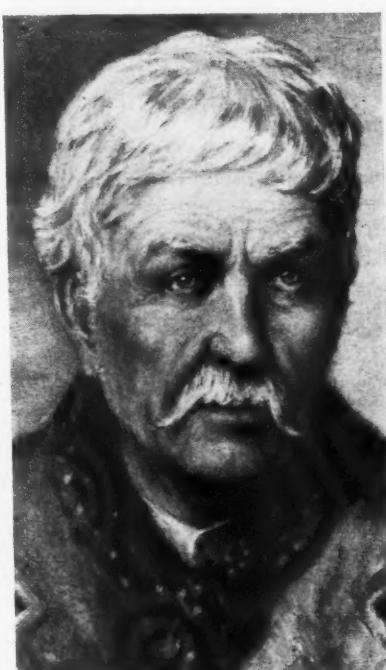
(Editor's Note.—This bears out a report made by J. Elmer Brock, president of the American National Live Stock Association, upon his return from a recent trip to Argentina. Said Brock: "Argentines are suffering from a meat complex. But that is their minor agricultural problem, as meat is already their most profitable branch of agriculture. They are burning corn for fuel. I saw old corn selling for 2 cents a bushel and wheat very low—I think 16 cents, but I am not sure as to the amount. These are the problems they should attack.")

CHISHOLM HONORED IN PORTRAIT HANGING

By E. N. WENTWORTH

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1941, THERE was placed in the portrait gallery of the Saddle and Sirloin Club in Chicago a painting of Jesse Chisholm, founder of the renowned cattle trail bearing his name.

Most of the traditions of the great cattle drives north out of Texas are associated with this route across the Indian country, and at least a half dozen of the best cowboy ballads of the period are identified with adventures upon it. Its original route ran from the Red River on the Texas-Oklahoma boundary to modern Caldwell, Kansas,



JESSE CHISHOLM

and it was soon extended northward to Abilene, where the cattle were shipped eastward over the Kansas Pacific Railroad. To the south, dozens of trails from the cattle-producing areas in Texas converged on it at what was known as the Red River Station, north of the present Texas town of Ringgold.

Jesse Chisholm was one of the great characters of the southwest frontier—Tennessee bred, the son of a Scotch father and of a mother from the famous Rogers family of Cherokee Indians, she being the sister of General Sam Houston's wife, Tallahina Rogers, and a close relative of the forebears of that great American humorist, Will Rogers. Born in 1806, he came to Arkansas with the families of his father and of James Rogers when he was ten years of age. The first authentic record of the work of Jesse Chisholm dates back to 1832, when he and Robert Bean laid out a route over the 150 miles of wild, rough country between Fort Towson, Arkansas, and the Arkansas River. The federal government constructed a highway over this route to facilitate the delivery of supplies to the Cherokees.

From his earliest days he was apparently an explorer and trader, and it was frequently stated that he knew the Arkansas-Oklahoma-Missouri-Kansas region better than any contemporary. On one of his journeys he became acquainted with the daughter of a trader named James Edwards, who operated a store at Fort Holmes near the mouth of the Little River, close by the present site of Bilby, Seminole County, Oklahoma, and made her his wife. Shortly after he succeeded to the management of the store and in this capacity increased his influence until he became known as the most successful trader of the plains country. Eventually he established branch trading posts at three other points in Oklahoma, the last one about six miles west of modern Oklahoma City.

Much of the financial success in his trading depended on his contracts with the Army and the Indian Service. His first cattle drive was to the Missouri River not far west of Booneville, Missouri, and although none of the route traversed was on the trail which later received his name, it was used extensively by others for cattle marketing in the late fifties and the sixties. The trail left Oklahoma from modern Vinita through Baxter Springs, Kansas, and today this forms a segment of U. S. Highway 66. When the railroads began to push west at the close of the Civil War, he recognized the growing possibilities of trade at their terminals and made many trips north and east—to modern Wichita, where Chisholm Creek is named for him, and as far as Fort Leavenworth. The path he followed from his trading post to Wichita was so satisfactory geographically that modern U. S. Highway 81 follows the major portion of the route.

Although the great cattle trail was named for him, Chisholm apparently traveled only the Oklahoma section of it, and it is not known that he drove any herds of beef cattle over it, although his many ox teams hauled his freight wagons. But he was expert in laying out trails with proper facilities for grazing and watering, and the great mass of Texas trail drivers recognized the correctness of his judgment and followed the route he pioneered.

Just as the great cattle drives were getting under way in the early spring of 1868, in March, he went on a trading expedition into what is now Blaine County, Oklahoma, and while there died suddenly—some say from indigestion, some from pneumonia, and others from a stroke. A great influence for good passed with him. He had been expert counselor to all of the Indian tribes, speaking fourteen languages. He had persuaded the majority of them to maintain neutrality during most of the Civil War, had guided the only successful expedition across Oklahoma and Texas to establish a wagon road from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Santa Fe (that of Lt. Edward Fitzgerald Beale), and had served as a most successful diplomatic representative of the Indians at Washington, and of Washington among the Indians. Chisholm was just at the height of his power and influence, and many authorities believe that his death prolonged the period of southwestern Indian wars another decade and a half. Not only was he a great figure in the trade of the Southwest, he was a great American.

The picture is the work of the distinguished Chicago portrait painter, Othmar Hoffler. The material on which it was based was furnished by Dean-Emeritus T. U. Taylor of the College of Engineering of the University of Texas at Austin. Dean Taylor's untimely death preceded the hanging of the portrait by a few days only. The section of the gallery devoted to the stirring days of the cattle trails now includes portraits of Chisholm, Colonel Goodnight, Major Seth Mabry, and Captain John Lytle, while portraits of other prominent figures are promised for the future.

VALUE OF THE FARM DOLLAR

According to the latest index of the Department of Agriculture, prices received by farmers at local markets throughout the country, as of July 15, averaged 125 per cent of the base period, 1909-14. Prices paid by farmers stood at 129, giving the farm dollar a purchasing power of 97 cents.

There were more than twice as many hogs in Guam in 1940 as any other type of livestock. Cattle ranked second in importance, numbering 5,845. The census reported 1,560 carabaos or water buffalo.

O'MAHONEY LETTER STOPS TIERRA DEL FUEGO RULING

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL's ruling some three months ago that this country's sanitary ban does not apply to Argentina's island province of Tierra del Fuego is still under reconsideration—and reconsideration in this case, observers believe, means retraction. In other words, meat imports from Argentina—all parts of it—will continue to be subject to our embargo provisions, it is believed.

The reason it is thought that the ruling will be withdrawn is that Secretary of Agriculture Wickard will not want to run the risk of accepting fresh meat shipments from a section that reputedly uses both beef and breeding animals from infected parts of Argentina and because of facts, set forth by Senator O'Mahoney in a letter to the Attorney General, which were not considered by the Attorney General when he made his ruling.

These facts are:

1. "It has been the policy of the government of the United States to suppress contagious diseases among domestic animals ever since May 29, 1884, when the President gave his approval to an act of Congress granting the Secretary of the Treasury certain powers to prevent the spread of dangerous, contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases of livestock, including hoof-and-mouth disease."

2. That in the act of February 2, 1903, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to make regulations to prevent introduction of diseases of animals into this country, the following language is used: "to prevent the introduction or dissemination of the contagion of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease of animals from a *foreign country* into the United States . . . and to seize, quarantine, and dispose of . . . any meats, hides, or other animal products coming from an infected *foreign country*."

3. That an order by the Secretary of Agriculture of September 17, 1926, under authority of this act prohibiting entry of fresh or frozen meat from "any region" was

4. "Not deemed sufficient by the Congress, which thereafter enacted section 306 (a) of the Tariff Act of 1930," returning to the use of the word "country," "thus clearly indicating the legislative intent."

5. That the treaty negotiated with Argentina to reverse the action of Congress and substitute the "region" or "zone" system of quarantine for the "country" system set forth in the law has not been ratified "because the Senate of the United States has not been willing to relax the safeguards against the importation of diseased meat."

6. "The congressional intent to exercise every precaution to avoid risk of introduction of the disease into this

country," is revealed in other statutes, notably section 306 (b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 which provides that "no meat of any kind shall be imported into the United States unless such meat is healthful, wholesome, and fit for human food, and unless such meat also complies with the rules and regulations made by the Secretary of Agriculture," and a section of the Act of August 30, 1890, which provides that "The importation of cattle, sheep, and other ruminants and swine, which are diseased or infected with any disease, or which shall have been exposed to such infection within sixty days next before their exportation, is prohibited."

In answer to Senator O'Mahoney's letter, the Assistant Solicitor General said:

"In reply to your letter of July 3 addressed to the Attorney General, I beg to advise that the facts, and the only facts, called to the attention of the Attorney General in connection with the letter of May 16, 1941, in response to the request of the Secretary of Agriculture for an opinion construing his power under section 306 (a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 were the facts set forth in the opinion itself, and these were the only facts stated in the hypothesis upon which an opinion was asked.

"This division had, of course, general knowledge of the statutes referred to in paragraphs numbered 1 and 2 of your letter. However, the facts stated in your paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 were not called to the attention of this department nor considered by it in arriving at the conclusions stated in the letter of May 16.

"This division has been instructed by the Attorney General to invite the comment of the other departments involved as to the matters of fact set forth in your letter and, in the light of your letter and of such further information as the department affected may supply in response to our inquiry, to restudy the conclusions of this department."

WOOL SHEARING IN 1941

The amount of wool shorn and to be shorn in 1941 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 399,941,000 pounds—the largest production of shorn wool on record, being about 3 per cent larger than the previous high in 1940 and 9 per cent above the 1930-39 average. Both the number of sheep shorn and the average weight of wool per sheep shorn were larger this year. The number is estimated at 48,900,000 head compared with 48,479,000 in 1940. Average weight of wool per sheep shorn is put at 8.18 pounds this year compared with 8 pounds in 1940. The department points out that these estimates are not based on revised figures.

According to the census, it cost twice as much to carry on the operations of the general government of the forty-eight states in 1938 as it did in 1932.

AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE TO CONTINUE MEAT ADS

PLANS FOR THE CONTINUATION of the American meat industry's advertising and sales program for a second year have been approved by the board of directors of the American Meat Institute, according to an announcement by the Institute.

"The Department of Agriculture's program of increased hog and pork production and disposal of surplus grass and grains through livestock emphasizes the desirability of and the necessity for continuing the general educational campaign to increase the consumption of meat," the Institute stated. "Experience derived from the first year of the program definitely indicates that the general public's knowledge about meat already is vastly improved and that the industry can improve its situation through the continuation of its campaign."

In approving the plans for the second year of the program, the Institute's board of directors considered the following pertinent facts:

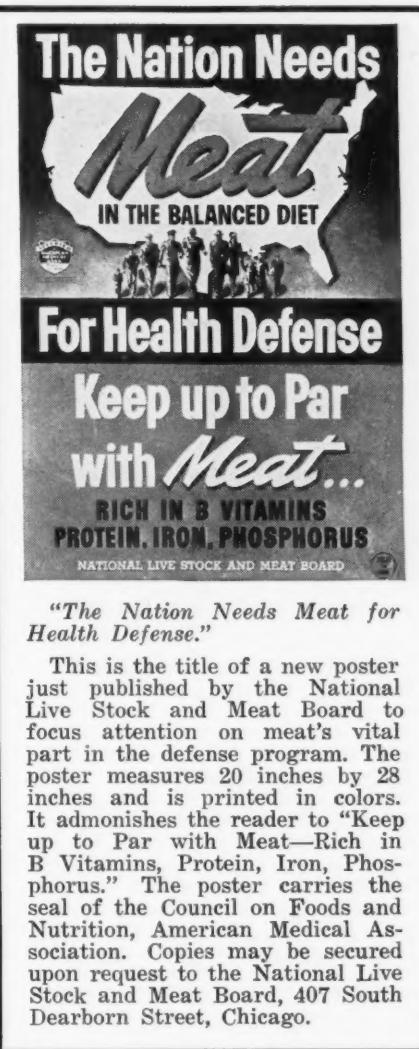
1. The survey of consumer eating habits made by Elmo Roper, leading research analyst, definitely has confirmed that the campaign's theme of nutrition which embodies proteins, vitamins, and minerals (iron, copper, phosphorus, etc.) and the theme of thrifty cuts are sound. Since the average consumer of meat does not realize the high nutritive value of meat, advertising which tends to build demand along these lines has a definite news value. The American public is interested in nutrition and the place of meat in nutrition. In view of those facts, the board has approved a program along the same general lines as that of the past year.

2. Protein starvation apparently occurs among people of the medium and higher income brackets as well as among those of the lower income brackets. Lack of knowledge about the nutritive value of meat and not lack of money keeps some people from eating more meat. Efforts of the industry during the coming year will be directed toward increasing meat consumption among people of these classes.

3. Co-operation from livestock producers has been unusually enthusiastic since the campaign got under way almost a year ago. Producers have expressed appreciation and an anxiety to help wherever they can to promote further the themes of the program.

4. The progress which the educational program made during its first year emphatically points out that people want to buy more meat if they know of good reasons for buying it. There is a necessity that the industry continue to create a greater desire on the part of the public to eat more meat as productoin expands and to continue to eat more meat during the coming year.

Media to be used during the coming year will include an extensive schedule of newspapers and leading national magazines, trade papers, and farm papers, in addition to a wide use of billboard advertising in key consuming areas throughout the country.



"The Nation Needs Meat for Health Defense."

This is the title of a new poster just published by the National Live Stock and Meat Board to focus attention on meat's vital part in the defense program. The poster measures 20 inches by 28 inches and is printed in colors. It admonishes the reader to "Keep up to Par with Meat—Rich in B Vitamins, Protein, Iron, Phosphorus." The poster carries the seal of the Council on Foods and Nutrition, American Medical Association. Copies may be secured upon request to the National Live Stock and Meat Board, 407 South Dearborn Street, Chicago.

HALEY-SMITH REGISTERED HERD SOLD TO PAINTERS

THE HERD DISPERSION AUCTION of the Haley-Smith Cattle Company, set for September 15-16, as advertised in the August PRODUCER, will not take place.

Announcement to this effect came just as the August issue was off the press, when A. A. Smith, of the Haley-Smith Cattle Company, notified the PRODUCER that his entire herd of registered Herefords had been sold to a Colorado neighbor, the Painter Hereford Company.

Purchase of the Haley-Smith registered herd marked the largest single purchase of purebreds made in Colorado livestock history. Five hundred and fifty animals changed hands.

"We are delighted to have this herd pass intact into the hands of the Painters," said Mr. Smith. "Seeing the results of our years of breeding endeavors remain intact and in strong hands was one of the main considerations in the final decision to sell to them."

Smith said that in retiring from the registered Hereford business he wanted to express to friends and customers of the past years sincere thanks for their patronage.

ARMY & NUTRITIONAL WORK OF MEAT BOARD DISCUSSED

PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE FEEDING of an army of 1,500,000 men and of providing adequate meals for the 45,000,000 of our population now living on diets which do not meet their nutritional needs impose an unprecedented responsibility upon the nation's livestock and meat industry, R. C. Pollock, general manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, told directors in his report at the annual meeting in Chicago.

Recognizing this responsibility, Pollock said that "results secured in its seventeen years of meat research are being utilized in an endeavor to serve in this defense program in every possible way." He surveyed the work being done by the board in training Army mess sergeants and cooks in meat handling, development of new cutting methods, and other phases of this work.

Besides this work in the field of national defense the board is concerned with the national nutrition program, Pollock declared, and its recent nutrition studies have led to preparation of a new booklet showing the need of meat in low-cost diets and how it may be included in those diets. It describes how nutritious, appetizing meals may be prepared at three levels of cost: \$1.68, \$2.31, and \$3.15 per week per person, including meat daily. It will be available to nutrition workers, dietitians, and welfare agencies.

"It is especially encouraging," Pollock said, "to note the growing interest in the subject of meat among physicians, dentists, dietitians, nurses, teachers, and other professional groups. During the past year we have received more than 34,000 requests for nutritional material about meat from members of professional groups.

"The year's program of education has been extended by the nation-wide meat advertising campaign carried on by the American Meat Institute, which is reaching millions of persons through national magazines, newspapers, and other media. The board has lent its full co-operation to this campaign by making the results of its meat research available to those who are directing the campaign."

"Notwithstanding the fact that the keenest sort of competition is being waged today for the consumer's food dollar," asserted Pollock, "it is gratifying to know that the use of meat in America's meals continues on the upgrade. Per capita consumption of meat in the United States last year was 141.6 pounds a gain of 14.3 pounds per capita over 1938."

Albert K. Mitchell, Albert, New Mexico, was re-elected chairman of the board at the meeting. This is Mitchell's third consecutive term as head of the organization. Other officers, all re-elected, are John W. Rath, Waterloo, Iowa, vice-chairman; W. H. Tomhave, Chicago, treasurer, and R. C. Pollock, Chicago, secretary and general manager.

DEHORNING GATE AND CATTLE SQUEEZE

By CECIL HESS, JR.
Montana 4-H Club Member

AT THE MONTANA STOCK GROWERS' Association convention held in Great Falls on May 22-24, 1941, my brother, Francis, and I, Cecil, demonstrated the construction of a cattle squeeze and dehorning gate by the use of a model built to one-quarter scale.

We have given this demonstration on two occasions in our county and in the state agricultural demonstration contest at the North Montana State Fair, 1939 and 1940. It was the state demonstration winner in 1940 which entitled us to go to the Pacific International Livestock Show in Portland and enter the contest there. The demonstration also won for us at Portland in competition with other northwestern states. This entitled us to bring back the Camp Plummer Trophy for the second consecutive year and the third time in the past four years.

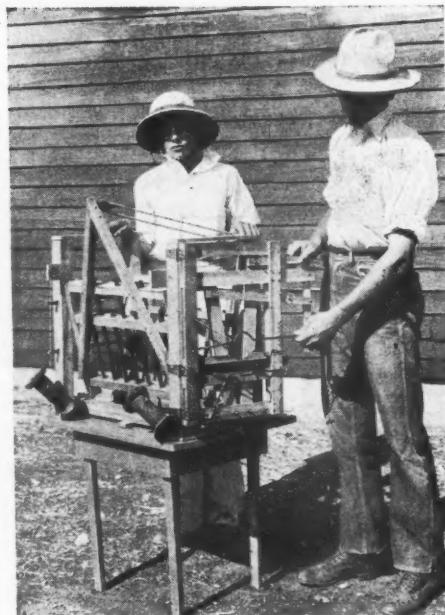
An important part of the 4-H Club work is demonstrations which are intended to teach some desirable farm practice. In searching for a demonstration, we found that in our county there are approximately 35,000 to 40,000 cattle. From time to time these cattle must be handled, if not for branding or dehorning, for other reasons such as testing. The majority of the ranches were without any branding and dehorning chutes and the chutes we found were weak and inadequate.

Furthermore, we found that many cattle were not dehorned because of inadequate facilities. This, of course, results in a loss to the grower at market time, due to the bruises which these cattle inflict on each other. Dehorned cattle usually bring from 25 to 75 cents a cwt. more than horned cattle of similar quality and condition. A rancher can make great savings in time, and hence in labor, if he has an adequate dehorning gate and branding chute.

We therefore selected a cattle squeeze and dehorning gate for our demonstration, and, since we have been showing how to build this squeeze-gate, ten have been constructed and six more are under construction in our county alone, and great interest has been shown in the construction of the squeeze-gate wherever we have demonstrated it.

Our chute has three advantages: (1) it is very strong and easily built; (2) it may be built to suit any budget; and (3) it is easily operated.

For the details of the construction refer to the drawing. To make the chute long-lived, it is better to treat the posts with creosote or some other suitable mixture. Two features which greatly add to the strength of the squeeze are the mortise and tenon joints with which the chute is fitted together and the two-inch pipe which forms the framework of the sides. An additional advantage of the pipe is that the long pipes may be re-



Francis and Cecil Hess with their model cattle squeeze.

moved if they conflict with the location of a brand. If one chooses, the short may also be made removable by boring holes for them in the top four-by-six. Because of the joints, it is necessary that the stationary side including the posts be assembled as a unit before setting in the ground. The long pipe may be left out, but the short pipe must be in place. The stationary part—i.e., the posts and connecting six-by-six—may be set in the ground and the movable portion assembled as a unit and put in place. To pull the movable side back to position, weights are hung over pulleys and ropes attached to the movable side (see picture). These weights may be anything you choose but must be heavy enough to pull this side back to position.

In making the holes for the pipe in the bottom four-by-six, make the holes only about three inches deep so there will be wood to hold the pipes in position. If the holes are bored clear through, a one-by-six may be bolted to the lower edge to hold the pipes.

The gate is easily constructed and the drawing is self-explanatory. (The two two-by-sixes for the stanchion itself are five feet and six feet two inches long.) The gate is hung on three strap-iron hinges which may be of any design one chooses. However, they should be long enough to fit in front of the gate and behind the post. This feature makes the gate stronger, since the hinge and post and not the bolts support the force against the gate. When an animal is in the gate, there is no action tending to pull the bolts out of the wood. One important advantage of the gate is that it may be operated entirely from one side, thus increasing the speed of operation. Also it is easily changed to fit any sized animal.

The animals may be kept from backing

out of the squeeze by two or three two-inch pipes put across the back through holes in the posts, or by a sliding door.

In installing the squeeze in a system of corrals it should be built at the end of a runway which is long enough to hold not less than six or seven animals. If the corral is built solidly and the squeeze is fastened to it, as well as being set in the ground, it will take a very big animal to break things loose.

As to the cost of building this squeeze-gate, we feel that anyone can afford to build it, with no exceptions. The actual cost, of course, depends on the locality. However, if everything is bought new, the cost will range from \$50 to \$75. This squeeze, however, may be built entirely from poles, except the lumber for the gate, the hardware, and the pipe. The pipe may be acquired secondhand and much of the hardware perhaps picked up around home. If one chooses to use sawed lumber, we wish to suggest that he use unplaned lumber, first, because it costs about half as much as planed lumber, and, second, because it will be stronger than planed lumber. In other words, the cost is up to you.

In conclusion, we wish to say that this squeeze-gate will meet most of your needs because—

1. It is easily operated with a crew of only two or three men.
2. It may be as cheaply constructed as one chooses.
3. It is very strong and well braced.
4. It is very handy both for dehorning and branding. The gate holds the animal's head absolutely solidly, and the pipes are removable to make room for branding.
5. Most any sized animal may be put through.

The list of materials follows:

1. Five 8" x 11' posts.
2. Two 6" x 6" x 8'.
3. Four 6" x 6" x 4'-9".
4. Two 4" x 6" x 5'.
5. Two 4" x 6" x 8'.
6. Two 4" x 6" x 6'-7".
7. One 4" x 8" x 8'.
8. Two 2" x 8" x 4'-6".
9. Two 2" x 6" x 18".
10. Two 4" x 4" x 10'.
11. Four 2" x 6" x 6'-10".
12. Four 2" x 6" x 4'-6".
13. One 2" x 6" x 6'.
14. One 2" x 6" x 6'-4".
15. One 2" x 6" x 5'.
16. One 2" x 4" x 4'-6".
17. One 2" x 4" x 3'.
18. One 2" x 4" x 5'.
19. Fourteen $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 10" bolts.
20. Fourteen $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 8" bolts.
21. Twenty-four $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 12" bolts.
22. Six $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 14" bolts.
23. One $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 6" bolt.
24. Six $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 16" bolts.
25. Four $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 22" bolts.
26. Forty $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7" bolts.
27. Eleven $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6" bolts.
28. Twenty-two 6" lag screws.
29. Strap-iron

$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" x 22"	$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" x 19"
$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" x 16"	$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 16"
$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" x 24"	$\frac{1}{8}$ " x 1" x 12"
$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" x 4'-11"	

30. Two 1" round x 6' rods.
31. One 1"x4'-6" rod.
32. Three 4" pulleys.
33. Twenty-eight inches 1/2" rope.
34. Sixteen spikes.
35. Two 16" springs.

My brother and I live on a farm in Judith Basin County in Montana. We do our trading in Denton and go to school in Stanford. We have been enrolled in the 4-H Club for six years. There are six members in our club. It is interesting to note that our club members live as far as thirty miles apart. This makes regular meetings somewhat difficult, but through the co-operation of our leaders, Russel Schmidt and Cecil Hess, Sr., and our county agent, Harold Dusenberry, we get along very well. Both Francis and I have been to the state cattle convention at Bozeman, Montana, and I was a state delegate to the Chicago International Livestock Exposition in 1938, where I attended the National 4-H Congress.

PCA LOANS REACH TWO BILLION

Two billion dollars in short-term credit extended to farmers and ranchers in seven and one-half years of operation is the record of 525 production credit associations in the United States. Organized for the sole purpose of providing farmers and ranchers with low-cost credit fitted to their seasonal operations, production credit associations are now serving every agricultural area of the nation. Losses and provisions for estimated losses amount to less than 0.5 per cent.

REMEMBER THE PAST; PREPARE FOR FUTURE

By PAUL L. MALONEY

RREPORTS FROM ALL LIVESTOCK producing areas indicate that "all pastures are well stocked, more cattle are on feed, larger numbers have been wintered, and efforts are being made to get additional breeding stock."

How many livestock producers realize how greatly these facts will likely affect their future operations?

While it is natural for stockmen to desire to keep every heifer and every cow which will produce him a calf to sell at the high prices; yet in the operation of any successful business enterprise it often requires the careful analysis of the past experiences in order to make the best use of the present and future of the business.

During the first World War livestock prices skyrocketed to a very high figure. These prices encouraged the producer to expand his operations and at the same time encouraged the consumers to substitute many other cheaper, yet less desirable, foods for meat.

After the war was over the stockman realized that his industry was in a stage of overproduction. The bottom dropped out of the meat prices, and many producers who had geared their operations on a large and elaborate scale met with disaster.

The same condition existed before and

during the depression years from 1930. Livestock prices were high before the depression, stockmen expanded their operations and later suffered the greatest rebuff the industry has seen.

No livestock producer likes to see prices of his commodity get too far out of line in comparison with other commodities.

Another world war is upon us at this time; meat prices are again going up; livestock numbers are expanding; and the stockmen cannot help but wonder how they can prepare themselves for the aftermath.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that there was an increase of almost 3,000,000 head of cattle between January 1, 1940, and January 1, 1941, and that the index price of beef is 125 per cent.

The question naturally arises, How can the livestock men protect themselves from these extremes in the cycle of low and high prices and large and small numbers of stock? How can they prevent the calamity which has always followed the rise in price and subsequent increase in numbers?

With the price going up, numbers naturally increase, as there is a demand for she-stock in order to cash in on the prosperous times the stockmen temporarily enjoy. At the same time, the larger the numbers of stock which are accumulated, the lower the price will be when the war is over and conditions start to be readjusted.

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The logical solution seems simple and could be put into effect if large numbers of stockmen could be persuaded to follow the simple outline, which is for stockmen to cull out of their herds all undesirable cattle and sheep at this opportune time. They can realize high prices for the heifers and for the off-color, off-type cows and for the cows and heifers which are giving the spindly, pony-type calves. They should buy only good, well-boned, easy-keeping bulls for the select cattle that are left in the herd.

The sales of these additional livestock which are marketed will tend to keep the present prices from going too high, and at the same time the numbers of stock will have been reduced by cleaning up the herds and selling the heifers, so that when the drop comes, as it always has, there will not be a large surplus of livestock on hand. This last factor will tend to keep the bottom from going to the usual low point, with its subsequent disaster.

By vigorously culling the herds at this time, the producers will be enabled to put their financial house in order.

All thinking stockmen who have gone through these extremes in numbers of livestock and price cycles will advocate a straightening out of the cycle by knocking a little off the peaks and boosting up the bottom of the curve. This will prevent, to a great extent, the confusion which exists after every break in prices when the ranchers have a surplus of stock on hand.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

OPPOSE EMBARGO REPEAL

The Minnesota State Live Stock Sanitary Board in a resolution passed at a meeting on July 16 asked President Roosevelt and Congress to refrain from any action that would repeal or modify the present sanitary ban against importation of meat or its products from countries in which there exists foot-and-mouth disease, "the most dreaded disease known to attack cloven hoof animals." The resolution stated that modification of the embargo would cause a recurrence of the evils existing prior to imposition of the ban, when the disease seriously demoralized the domestic livestock industry and cost millions of dollars; that "the agricultural and livestock industry of this nation is playing and must continue to play a vital and indispensable part in the program of national defense, and nothing would more seriously affect and burden the program of national defense than a relaxation of the existing barriers to the importation of diseased livestock."

CALIFORNIA COUNTY MEETINGS

Tulare County Cattlemen's Association members gathered recently at Baldwin Flat, California, for their annual barbecue meeting. Speakers included Secretary Lucien Schmittou; California Cattlemen's Association Secretary John Curry; and Clyde Harris, of the Cattle

Protective Service. Wilbur Dennis, president, presided. All directors were re-elected, and they, in turn, will name a president and vice-president. . . . The Shasta County Cattlemen's Association met recently at Redding, California, to hear Clyde Harris, Assistant Farm Advisor Lester Berry, and Farm Advisor Neil Derrick. . . . The Stockmen's Protective Association of Livermore (California) held its thirty-eighth annual meeting at Livermore and elected John McGlinchey president for the thirty-eighth time. Speakers included State Forester Pratt, State Ranger Winters, Assistant State Fire Chief Barron, Clyde Harris, Secretary Curry, Secretary Wing of the California Wool Growers' Association, County Supervisor George Hellwig, Farm Advisor T. O. Morrison, and Kenneth Clarke, Livermore high school instructor. Secretary of the association is John Callaghan, who has been in office continuously since 1904.

ASSOCIATION BROADENS WORK

Sixty-six ranchers attended the semi-annual meeting of the Meagher County (Montana) Livestock Association on June 7. Speakers were Dr. W. J. Butler; Fred Willson, of the northern Montana experiment station; E. A. Phillips, secretary of the Montana Stock Growers' Association; and Evan W. Hall. The Meagher County association was organized in 1939 for the principal purpose of protecting members against livestock

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thefts. Since that time, it has broadened its activities to include sponsoring 4-H Club livestock work, publishing an association brand book, sponsoring Bang's vaccination program, predatory animal control, rodent control, and work on other livestock problems. The association, now composed of 130 active members, is offering a \$500 livestock theft reward.

TO PROTECT THE BEAVER

In a resolution adopted on June 30, at Ragged Mountain, Colorado, the Ragged

Mountain Live Stock Association asked that the Colorado game and fish department instruct state trappers to trap no beavers on forest land except for transplanting purposes. The resolution held that beavers on the national forests were a direct benefit to the stockmen. Under the present law, the resolution declared, there is "grave danger of beavers being taken and killed from range used by this association in the Grand Mesa National Forest, and we protest such taking and killing, for the reasons that the range is fully stocked and beaver dams furnish the only stock water in dry years over a large proportion of our range; that if the beavers are trapped out it reduces the carrying capacity of the range, which would be a direct financial loss to the stockmen; that some ranges have been rendered useless when beavers were trapped by poachers, besides causing loss of irrigation water and water for domestic use, and beavers should be replanted in those places."

vention; urged passage of the Andrenes bill to establish sanitary inspection and control over importations of animals; urged removal from Department of Agriculture of the Consumers' Council; and opposed "the practice of permitting federal officials to lend their aid to producers of synthetic foods as compared with natural foods by tending to influence consumption trends," referring to oleomargarine. Representatives of various organizations were guests at the meeting, including F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, and Ben Brumley and P. O. Wilson, president and secretary, respectively, of the National Live Stock Marketing Association.

PALOMINO BREEDERS ORGANIZE

Breeders of Palomino horses recently organized the Palomino Horse Breeders of America organization "to aid and encourage the breeding, rearing, and registration of Palomino horses." Headquarters are in Mineral Wells, Texas. Dr. H. Arthur Zappe is secretary, W. B. Mitchell, of Marfa, Texas, president, and Chester R. Upham, of Pacific Palisades, California, vice-president.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER—

- 11-14—Nevada Livestock Show and Fair, Elko.
- 14—Nevada Bull Sale, Elko, Nevada. Northern Arizona Cattlemen's Ass'n Meeting, Prescott, Ariz.
- 25—Chaney Hereford Ranch Sale, Gannett, Ida.
- 26-27—Walter E. and Arthur E. Cole Dispersion Sale, five miles west of Anselmo, Neb.
- 26-28—Navajo County Fair and Northern Arizona Cattlemen's Ass'n Show, Holbrook, Ariz.

OCTOBER—

- 2—Benton Marshall and Sons Sale, Chadron, Neb.
- 4-11—Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- 23—Triple U Hereford Ranch Sale, five miles east and one mile south of Gettysburg, S. D.
- 25—Idaho Cattlemen's Ass'n Bull Sale, Pocatello.
- 25—By the Way Ranch Sale, Wood Lake, Neb.
- 28—Wyoming Hereford Ranch Sale, Cheyenne.

NOVEMBER—

- 3—Rex T. Coffee Hereford Sale, Alliance, Neb.
- 8—Chadron Range Bull Sale, Chadron, Neb.
- 10—Platte Valley Hereford Ass'n Sale, North Platte, Neb.
- 15-22—Grand National Livestock Exposition, San Francisco.
- 17—Dwight C. Diver Registered Short-horn Sale, Humboldt, Kan.

JANUARY—

- 7-9—American National Live Stock Ass'n Convention, Salt Lake City.

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MEETING IN NEW MEXICO

The executive committee of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association will meet at Raton, New Mexico, on September 18 to discuss problems before the industry during the defense emergency. President Tom Clayton urges all cattlemen in the state, whether members of the association or not, to attend. F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association will discuss problems and policies of the national organization as shown in resolutions adopted at its executive committee meeting at Colorado Springs in July.

MILKMEN CALL MEETING

The second national emergency conference, called by the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, at a meeting in Chicago on August 18-19 opposed "any federal policy which may place maximum prices on commodities, particularly agricultural;" opposed enactment of the Doughton tariff control bill; opposed ratification of the Argentine sanitary con-

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Traffic Counsel—CHARLES E. BLAINE, Phoenix, Ariz.

Assistant Traffic Counsel—CALVIN L. BLAINE, Phoenix, Ariz.

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A STRANGE ATTITUDE

WHAT NEXT, THE CATTLEMEN are asking as every few weeks some further move is made by the administration to tear down the few remaining tariff bars protecting the livestock industry against unfair competition from countries whose costs of production and standards of living are far below those now prevailing in this country. Not only are the tariff rates under constant attack, but at the same time efforts are being made to nullify the much needed sanitary provisions of the present law.

This is a strange attitude for our officials to take at a time when the defense of the country should be placed above every other consideration, especially in view of the fact that the livestock industry is the most essential unit of our food production machine.

First came the Doughton-Johnson bills, which would grant the power to cancel all import duties and import restrictions on products needed for defense; next the trade agreements with Argentina and Uruguay; this was soon followed by the remarkable decision that Tierra del Fuego was no longer part of Argentina (this strangely enough so that the same Argentine government could export surplus lamb and mutton from that province); then the supplemental agreement with Cuba; in addition, there may be broad powers sought in the price-fixing bill which would be as bad as the provisions of the Doughton-Johnson bill.

Of course it all fits in with the policy of appeasement which our State Department has adopted in relation to the problems of the Western Hemisphere. But American stockmen are beginning to wonder why these many concessions are necessary on top of the huge loans which have already been made, and why their

industry is being used as the main sacrificial offering. Are not other countries in the Western Hemisphere equally interested in insuring action by all in the common interest?

One important angle is being overlooked by our overanxious diplomats, and that is the home defense angle. No industry is more vital to defense than the livestock industry. We find many foreign governments recognizing this fact and subsidizing their cattle producers in various ways, promoting breed improvement, financing packing houses, helping to develop export trade, establishing minimum prices, buying surpluses, financing herd expansion, etc. It is ironical that our own government instead of taking zealous care to protect its livestock industry in this emergency and thereby insuring an adequate meat supply for defense or in case of war should be fostering the cattle producers of other countries by the various moves set forth above.

It is high time that our officials regained their sense of balance and put first things first. If we should engage in war, as now seems all too probable, it will be the American cattle producer that will furnish the beef for the fighting army and for the supporting civilian army—not the Argentine nor the Cuban nor the Uruguayan nor anybody else. That being so, it is our time up to bat, Mr. Secretary of State, and we will not strike out if given the chance that should rightly be ours.

THE TAX BURDEN

FOR MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT publicity machine has been grinding out propaganda by the ton, warning the taxpayer of pyramiding increases to come in income taxes and excise taxes.

The House has passed the huge new tax bill, with increases imposed all along the line and with many new sources of income tapped. It is now up to the Senate to find ways and means of adding at least another \$500,000,000 to the load.

By way of encouragement, it is suggested that "this is only the beginning." So far the public has been rather apathetic, but if the prediction that many people will have to borrow in 1942 to pay taxes on their 1941 income comes true—as it doubtless will—and if the 1942 and succeeding revenue bills penetrate much deeper into the pocketbook than now, eventually there will be an awakening.

When that time comes, what can be done to meet the situation? Clearly, there is no end in sight to huge appropriations for defense purposes and for camouflaged gifts to our allies. There can be no saving there at present and possibly not for some years to come. How, then, about appropriations for ordinary expenditures of the federal government and for social frills added during the depression, some of which, at least, we can no longer afford? How

about expenditures for state, city, and local governments, which, like those of the federal government, have been mounting with ever-increasing speed?

Here certainly is the field where retrenchment must come. It will be recalled that a move in this direction was stopped eight or nine years ago by the program of the New Deal to spend ourselves into prosperity. The present federal tax burden is in large part attributable to that effort. It was found impossible to retrench at a time when the federal government was demanding sharp increases in matching appropriations for projects of greater or less merit.

A good way to start in anew on retrenchment would be to compare present-day expenditures with those of ten years ago. Huge increases will be found all along the line. According to the census, it cost twice as much to carry on the operations of the general government of the forty-eight states in 1938 as it did in 1932. Taxeaters have been busy devising new ways to secure funds, some of which have been put to doubtful use. At least it is certain that many frills in government have been added and many social programs advanced. Each of these perhaps has some merit when considered by itself, but many are too expensive to be maintained under present conditions.

The taxpayer will have no one to blame but himself if he does not take this matter promptly in hand. The tax-eater is hard to control, because he never ceases his activities in attempting to justify the perpetuation of his own particular set-up. But it can be done if there is leadership to point the way and determination to stay with it until tangible results are in sight.

THE MEAT BOARD

THE MEN WHO LAUNCHED THE National Live Stock and Meat Board eighteen years ago and assigned it to get some facts about meat and tell them to the people must be gratified when they read the latest report of their organization.

In the 100-page report they will note that twenty pieces of work are now the special duty of the Meat Board; that, instead of the lone department of information, a half dozen departments—public relations, economics, meat merchandising, research and nutrition, and





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Mixed Bacterin (Porcine) Formula No. 1	.06 per dose
Mixed Bacterin (Ovine) Formula No. 1	.06 per dose
Mixed Bacterin (Bovine) Formula No. 1	.06 per dose
Coli-Enteritidis Bacterin	.06 per dose
(This product is used for the prevention and treatment of calf scours)	
Brucella Abortus Vaccine	.50 per dose
Mixed Bacterin (Avian) Chicken Formula	.01 1/2 per dose

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homemakers' service—are needed to take care of the Board's work.

They will note with satisfaction that their vision of eighteen years ago of blanketing the nation with meat facts to spike the growing anti-meat propaganda of the day long ago became a reality and that many other accomplishments have come from their organization.

In research, for instance, the Board and other agencies have revealed a rich source of iron in liver; the Board has shown the importance of meat in the child's diet; it has proved meat's ability to combat certain diseases; it has capitalized on the discovery that meat abounds in vitamin B health-giving factors.

In advertising, the Board's experiences in research, education, and promotion have been of invaluable aid in the American Meat Institute's present nation-wide advertising campaign; the Board's "Meat and Romance" film venture has in a year's time given more than 2,000,000 people practical instruction on buying, cooking, carving, and nutrition.

In national defense, the Board, in a pioneering move, has already sent its experts to fifty Army camps to give mess sergeants new slants on how to cut and cook meat efficiently for more than a million soldiers; it is assisting in problems of proper feeding of the civilian population.

In emergencies, the Board in several instances has helped to reverse serious downturns in livestock prices.

Yes, the men who created the Meat Board had foresight. The Board's work is abundant evidence of that. And they had the foresight too in making co-operation a keynote in their organization. It is not only the Meat Board for the producer. It is the packer's, the commission man's, the retailer's, and the consumer's board. But it is vital to the producer. He must support it. Specifically, that support calls for 25 cents a car on the animals the producer ships—and the packer matches that. This support has been increasing along with the growth of the Board's activities. New livestock markets are adding their contributions. Independent packers are paying. Shippers are increasing their direct support. But there are many who do not contribute. They should. The Meat Board merits the support of all.

THE NEEDED LAW AT LAST

UNCLE SAM, AFTER A GOOD DEAL

of coaxing, has just now come to see eye to eye with the cattleman on a matter that the latter has had to contend with ever since the Texas trail days and before—rustling. On August 19, President Roosevelt signed the McCarran anti-cattle-theft bill that should make cattle stealing as unpopular as it was in the days when the stockman himself had to administer his own severe law.

The new law imposes a fine of \$5,000

or five years' confinement for the interstate transportation of stolen cattle. It is a restatement of the old law to fit the new conditions of fast vehicles and smooth roads. It is a recognition of the old-fashioned belief that rustling should be made an unpopular activity. It is a practical way to deal with the age-old tendency of the class of society that wants illegally to live off others' labors.

But it took the livestock industry about five years to convince the President of these truths. First broached by Secretary F. E. Mollin at an annual meeting of the American National Live Stock Association in 1937, measures like the one that is now law have repeatedly been accepted by both houses of Congress and sent to the President's desk for signature. In the Senate, it was Senator McCarran, of Nevada, who untiringly sought the law; in the House, Representative Case, of South Dakota, Representative Coffee, of Nebraska, and Representative Murdock (now a senator), Utah, backed him up. One time the bill failed because it tried to cover too much ground—mules, lambs, even chickens, having been included by farm-minded congressmen for coverage under the law; another time it was a case of "encroachment of federal power" that stopped it; once, even the matter of money to finance the operation of the law stood in the way.

Three times it was before the President and three times it failed. On the fourth it has become a law. In the words of its original sponsor, Secretary Mollin, "This successful outcome of our efforts to make Washington understand the practical problems of the livestock industry is gratifying. The cattlemen were in such dire need of a federal theft law that they felt the measure should have been signed long ago. Fast trucks, good roads, and complications in pursuit and capture of the thieves as between the several states had made the rustlers so bold that in recent years we have seen record thievery in the cattle business. The new law will discourage this sort of thing. The cattlemen appreciate the President's understanding of this vital problem."

NO OVERTIME

There's no overtime for the bovine worker. At least, that is the conclusion reached by a Cornell University student who took up his abode in a pasture for twenty-four consecutive hours. The pedigree Aberdeen-Angus that Keith Kennedy of Vancouver, Washington, placed under observation proved that the cow is pretty smart after all. She spent eight hours grazing, twelve more were whiled away lying down, and the remaining four evidently were for pleasure, as she just walked or stood around. Bossy averaged fifty to seventy bites of grass a minute, but at times she speeded up to ninety, according to Kennedy's report. And most of us will be willing to accept his word for it.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

CATTLE THEFT BILL SIGNED

Transportation of stolen cattle in interstate commerce is now prohibited in the McCarran cattle theft law, signed by President Roosevelt on August 19. The action closes a long fight by the cattlemen for federal cattle theft legislation. First introduced in 1937 as a result of a resolution adopted at the El Paso convention of the American National Live Stock Association in January, 1937, three measures similar to the new law but involving "too many classes of livestock included," "encroachment of federal authority," and "too much expense in administration," had met with presidential veto. Senator McCarran, of Nevada, Representative Case, of South Dakota, Representative Coffee, of Nebraska, and Representative Murdock, of Utah, now a senator, were the persistent champions of the legislation, which cattle organizations all over the West, having to contend with constantly increasing interstate traffic in stolen livestock, have repeatedly urged upon Congress. The law imposes a penalty of \$5,000 fine or five years' confinement.

TREATY WITH CUBA

The Department of State announced on July 26 intention to negotiate a supplemental trade agreement with Cuba, with beef and veal as articles that will come under consideration for possible granting of concessions by the United States. Written briefs in the matter are due at the office of the Committee for Reciprocity Information by August 23, and oral testimony may be submitted on September 8. F. E. Mollin, secretary

of the American National Live Stock Association, again is representing the western livestock industry in this treaty matter. Brief has been filed, and Mollin will appear before the committee on the date set. . . . Fresh beef imports from Cuba have increased greatly in recent years. The Cuban government is showing much interest in developing and protecting its cattle industry. In January, 1940, the government authorized a loan of \$100,000 to the Cuban Co-operative Packing Company for construction of a plant for packing meat for export. There are about 5,000,000 cattle in Cuba.

FSCC MEAT PURCHASES

Meat and lard purchases by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation during the first seven months of 1941, according to figures from the Denver regional livestock office of the Agricultural Marketing Service, were: Cured and frozen pork, 112,853,500 pounds; canned pork, 65,811,824 pounds; hog casings, 951,025 bundles of 100 yards each; dried beef, 11,000 pounds; and lard, 170,856,927 pounds.

DRAFT EXTENSION

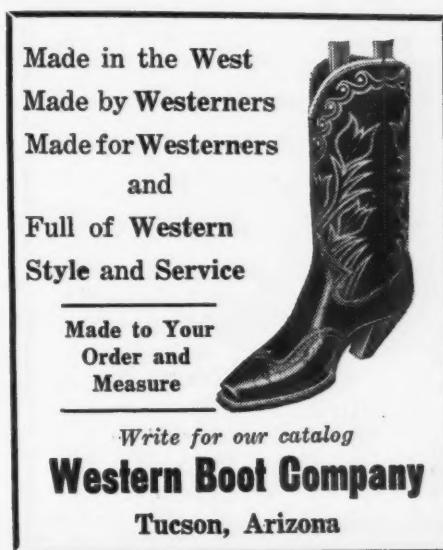
Eighteen months more in khaki was the period of extension provided in the Senate approved measure that passed the House with 203 yeas to 202 nays. A million and five hundred thousand men in the new Army were affected. The measure provides for \$10 per month increase in pay for those kept in service and permits discharge in cases where the added service would work undue hardship on the men or their dependents.

SANITARY INSPECTION BILL

A permanent system of sanitary inspection and control over importations of animals and their products from foreign countries when there is danger of spreading disease in the United States is provided for in a bill introduced by Representative August H. Andresen, of Minnesota. The bill is designed to protect the high standards of the domestic production of livestock and its products.

PRICE CONTROL MEASURE

The administration's price control bill, introduced in Congress August 1, would empower the President to fix ceilings on prices and rents. He could relegate the power, and presumably it would go to the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply. Limitation on the President's powers would prevent the setting of a ceiling on agricultural commodities below 110 per cent of parity prices and leave wages free of control. House hearings on the measure were recently postponed thirty days. . . . Curbs on the na-





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AT the time you are rounding up your cattle, why not throw your rope and snag a new member for the American National? All cattlemen should belong, and you can do your part as a member by getting us a new one, or, if you are not a member, you can easily become one. The dues are reasonable and your National Association needs all the support it can get now. Many important things are taking place—hearings on various bills and trade agreements—and they all take money.

Round up either a new member or join yourself and help your association do all it can for you.

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tion's \$4,500,000,000 to \$7,000,000,000 a year installment buying business came thru an executive order calling for down payments where none are now necessary, larger than usual down payments, and a reduction in the length of time that payments may run. Administration will be thru the Federal Reserve Board. Farm machinery will be exempt from initial regulation.

NEW RANGE IMPROVEMENT HEAD

New head of the range improvement branch of the Taylor Grazing Service is Edmund R. Greenslet, succeeding A. D. Molohon who recently was named chief of the branch of range management of the service. Greenslet's duties will include supervision of a widespread range development program on the public domain and service as directing head of the fifty CCC camps in the range area which are engaged in range development work. For seventeen years Greenslet was employed by the Geological Survey in mapping and classifying the public lands. He assisted with the organization of grazing districts when the Taylor act was passed and was first regional grazier for Idaho. Later he was put in charge of the range survey unit of the Grazing Service.

MONT SAUNDERSON PROMOTED

Assignment of Mont H. Saunderson, Forest Service range economist, to new research duties covering all western states was announced recently by Reed W. Bailey, director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. The promotion follows Saunderson's completion of a temporary six-months' detail with the Taylor Grazing Service, where he made the preliminary economic analysis and appraisal of public domain lands for the purpose of establishing a base for grazing fees to be charged on those lands. Saunderson had gained wide experience in the economics of western ranges and the livestock industry while attached to the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

FEDERAL JURY INDICTS AGAIN

Continuing its investigation of prices and market practices in the meat-packing industry, the federal grand jury in Chicago indicted 118 firms and persons for allegedly conspiring to fix prices on Easter hams, suppressing competition in the sale of such hams, and suppressing the Easter trade. The answer of the American Meat Institute to the new indictments is a general denial.

PREDATOR CONTROL EXPANDED

A total of \$949,000 was appropriated by Congress for predator and rodent control by the Fish and Wildlife Service for the fiscal year which began July 1. This is an increase of \$100,000 over last year's appropriation.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

LESS RAPID RISE IN FARM PRODUCT DEMAND FORECAST

GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL economists look for a continued rise in the demand for farm products the remainder of this year but at a slower rate than in the first half in 1941.

Their report on the subject indicates:

1. That consumers will have larger buying power;
2. That storage and speculative demand for farm products will continue strong;
3. That production of defense equipment will expand "largely at the expense of production of civilian goods;"
4. That industrial production may not rise materially "until the production of basic materials can be expanded and new manufacturing facilities come into full production."

In their summary of specific farm commodities: Slaughter supplies of grain-fed cattle will be exceptionally large this fall; slaughter supplies of hogs are expected to continue smaller than a year earlier through the remainder of 1941; and there will be somewhat larger slaughter supplies of sheep and lambs during the remainder of the year than in corresponding months of 1940.

ARGENTINE CANNED BEEF

Imports of Argentine canned beef into the United States in 1940 amounted to 30,000,000 pounds—a decrease of 14 per cent compared with 1939. Imports from Argentina in the first five months of 1941 amounted to 22,000,000 pounds—22 per cent larger than in the same period a year earlier. Although the proportion of Argentine canned beef shipped to the United States is small in comparison with total beef shipments from that country, Argentina leads as a supplier of foreign canned beef.

IMPORT MORE PUREBREDS

In spite of war-time reductions in shipping space, importation of purebred animals into the United States for breeding purposes increased 4,175 head for the year ending June 30, 1941, as compared with the previous twelve months, the Department of Agriculture reports. A total of 19,104 certificates were issued for purebred animals imported duty-free under the tariff law, as against 14,929 in the previous year. These covered 14,594 cattle, 3,590 sheep, 544 dogs, 299 horses, 71 swine, and 6 goats.

The Association of American Railways is authority for the statement that the demand by railroad workers for a 30 per cent increase in wages and an annual vacation with pay would mean an increase of about \$900,000,000 annually in the costs of transportation.

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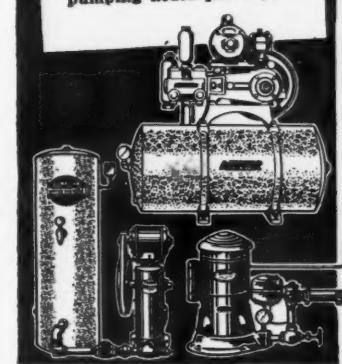
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Will Sell 80 Registered Shorthorns

This will be a sale of young bulls and heifers and some fine cows from the farms of Dwight C. Diver, of Chanute. The sale will be held at his Humboldt, Kansas, farm and will have over 100 Shorthorns in the sale. Many of the cows will have calves by side.

Auction Sale—Monday, Nov. 17, at Humboldt, Kansas, Farm

Address inquiries to Dwight C. Diver, Chanute, Kansas

Our appreciation for the wonderful reception given our purchase of the Haley-Smith herd

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The Western Movement . . .

Millions of cattle move from ranges to market during fall and winter. It is "the western movement" For advertisers who sell to ranches, this is the best time to advertise . . . and PRODUCER columns give low-cost, sure coverage of the cattleman market.

OLD INDIANS SAY, MORE FIRE, MORE GRASS

By IDA ESTES FRANKLIN

EVERY NOW AND THEN SOMEbody comes forward with the statement that the Indian could teach the white man something—if the white man would listen.

Oliver La Farge suggests that the proud, intelligent Navajo has a valuable philosophy, a profound peace, and an acceptance of life which we might well try to understand. The white man has smiled his superior smile when the medicine man and his chanters are mentioned. The Indian "sing" (primitive cure-all) has been attacked by missionary and physician for generations. But Herbert McKusick, who has studied their healing rites and checked the pulse-rates caused by the various drumbeats (the tests were made at a university with an electro cardiograph), predicts that some day the physician will employ the slow Indian rhythms instead of sedatives, the quickened drumbeats instead of adrenaline.

Now comes C. C. Griffin, owner of the big 76 Ranch at Tonto Basin, Arizona, to ask strange questions—questions of vital interest to the cattleman.

Why, he asks, were the Great Plains treeless when the immigrants first saw them? Why were they then covered only with waving grass which supported vast herds of buffalo?

Why are great reaches of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona today covered with dense growths of brush—regions which were lush with grass when the white man came, even as late as 1884, when C. C. Griffin first saw the Southwest?

Cliff Griffin, just after graduation from college in Washington, D. C., came West in April of 1884. He thought it

the most beautiful country he had ever seen—grass and flowers everywhere. There was very little brush. The streams were full of fish, and there was game of every kind wherever a man went.

The Indians had evidently managed the country well.

Then the white man moved in. He dynamited the streams, killing big and little fish alike—a terrible waste. He killed game, often merely for sport. He cut the finest trees for shakes—he would cut shakes only from straight-grained wood; if there was a twist in the grain, he would let the tree lie and rot, cut another. He butchered the grass. When a short year came, he might lose a third of his herd.

We now have laws regulating the old abuses—game laws, timber regulations. And the Forest Service has done much for the range in cutting down the number of stock until it has it just about right, says Mr. Griffin.

But the Forest Service is making mistakes. Cattlemen are waking up to what a good thing the grazing regulations are but many of us are at loggerheads

with the Service over its conservation methods—and so are engineers and rangers. The Service's erosion control methods are wasteful, inefficient. Dams ought to wing the water out to either side above the dam, instead of letting it pour over and wash out everything below.

And they ought to burn the brush!

Indians burned the brush. The Spaniards burned it—Prescott, the historian, relates how they burned the brush from a vast expanse which reminded them of the Plains of Castile, turned the brushy waste into grassy savannahs. Early cattlemen burned the brush. We all learned from the Indians.

We want some brush for protection and for seasonal forage. But thick brush makes cattle wild and hard to work and crowds out grass. Grass nails down soil better than brush. Grass holds moisture better than brush; helps us to conserve our rain crop.

The Indians knew all that. You can find old, blackened stumps all over this country. I've been in the cattle business fifty-six years. I've seen whole ridges and hills that used to be as green as an emerald go back to brush. Many a square mile of grassy hillside which twenty-five years ago had on it only two or three big juniper trees is now a juniper thicket with maybe a few acres of open grass. It's the same with laurel, manzanita, jackpine. I suppose it's the same with sage.

The Indians used to burn off the brush to make way for the grass. They cut the brush in the winter, piled it about the roots, and let it dry. Then, in August, they would set fire to it. Brush burned in that way will never come up again. The Forest Service has all kinds of machinery. It could cut and pile and burn, perhaps using CCC labor.

But say fire to the Forest Service and they turn pale. Indians know a lot, but you can't make the Service believe it.



A Complete Dispersion [September 26-27 Five Miles West of Anselmo, Neb.]

• • • of the • • •

Walter E. and Arthur E. Cole Herds of Registered Herefords

→ 300 breeding cows 260 winter and spring calves 25 two-year-old heifers
115 yearling heifers 70 head yearling bulls 10 head herd bulls

In building this herd of cattle we have stressed the thick, low-down, rugged kind that is so popular with the feeders today. Ten choice herd bulls for ten discriminating breeders. They carry the blood of Real Prince Domino, Baron Domino, and Advance Domino.

A sale of this size and quality offers the prospective buyer an unusual opportunity to pick what he wants.

Sale to be held at summer range, five miles west of Anselmo, on No. 2 highway. For catalog, write Walter E. Cole, Broken Bow, Nebraska. Art Thompson, Auctioneer.

WALTER E. AND ARTHUR E. COLE, Owners

"More fire, more grass," say old Indians. Some day the Service will be burning these worthless thickets.

Drought and overgrazing get the full blame for the condition of the range today. "When it rains," they say, "the range will come back." Indeed it will—that which isn't given over to the growing of mesquite. I've seen it come back after the drought of the nineties, and that preceding the year 1911. One year you'd never know there had ever been any grass in the country; the next, grass was eight inches tall in March.

If the Forest Service had to deduct every acre of close brush-land, they'd find the range whittled down surprisingly—and growing smaller alarmingly fast. Cattlemen ought to bombard Washington until the brush menace is cleared up, especially now that the country, the world, is clamoring for more beef. Clearing the brush might almost be considered a preparedness measure.

The Forest Service ought to read the history of the Spanish conquerors. It ought to get a shot of whiskey into any of a dozen old cattlemen, and then listen to him. They'd learn more in five minutes than they'd learn from a swivel chair in five years.

I predict that some day the Forest Service will call an old Indian to Washington and listen to him, learn from him. Some day, when we see Nature and the Forest Service co-operate, the range will come back.

FREIGHT CAR SHORTAGE DEMANDS CO-OPERATION

By CHAS. E. BLAINE

WITH THE PEAK SHIPPING months of September and October already in view, the Department of Commerce is urging American shippers to co-operate with the railroads in order to help relieve "a tight freight car situation during the coming peak shipping season of September and October."

This is a problem in which we have a mutual interest with the rail carriers. It is therefore to our distinct advantage to co-operate with the railroads to the utmost in relieving the situation.

The American Association of Railroads has estimated that the ordinary freight car is in the hands of a shipper 47 per cent of the time. Therefore a great responsibility rests on the shipper in co-operating with the carriers in order to assure an adequate car supply.

If we hope adequately to be served by rail service, we must discontinue some of the practices into which we have fallen when there was a surplus of transportation. There are a number of steps which shippers can take to offset the expensive delays that car shortages will cause. Some of these steps are briefly summarized as follows:

1. Load rail car equipment to full visible capacity or maximum journal carrying capacity if possible.

2. Load and unload all equipment promptly.

3. Notify railroads immediately when cars are released or advise them the approximate time that cars will be released.

4. Place car orders sufficient time in advance to enable carrier to draw on car pool in an orderly manner.

5. Do not order more cars than are actually needed.

6. Ship as much material as possible before peak season arrives.

7. Remove all dunnage and refuse from cars when unloaded, thereby eliminating necessity of carrier switching car to cleaning tracks.

8. If five-day week for loading and unloading crew is in effect, some provision should be made to provide at least a six-day basis for loading and unloading cars.

It is vitally important for all shippers to load rail cars to full capacity in order to secure the most efficient use of the equipment. It has been customary throughout the depression for shippers to load cars merely to meet minimum requirements. In many cases the cars could be loaded to double the minimum weight and still not be loaded to full visible capacity.

The elimination of car waste is a shipper's problem, and therefore a large contribution to the national defense effort can be made by the shippers of the nation by carrying out the foregoing suggestions.

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40 Bulls, Sired by Real Prince Domino 20th or Pioneer Domino 31st—
35 Long Yearling Bulls . . . 2 Seniors
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25 Females, Most of Them Open Heifers—

14 Long Yearlings . . . 4 Fall Heifers or

Senior Calves . . . Remainder, Bred Cows and Heifers (Most of these heifers sired by Real Prince Domino 20th or Pioneer Domino 31st, and the bred cows and heifers mated to these two bulls.)

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REAL PRINCE
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MARKETS

LIVESTOCK CLASSES IN NEW NARROW SPREAD

By H. W. FRENCH

THE FRONT FIGURE WAS changed for both cattle and hogs since early in July and the change was not downward. New recent highs were reported for fed steers, heifers, and sausage bulls, while the new hog top stood the highest in several years. Top fed cattle passed from the \$12 level into the \$13 circle, while sausage bulls hit the unusual mark of \$10 and best butcher hogs barely reached \$12. The lamb producer has been favored with \$11 or more for top slaughter offerings and despite recent light receipts was unable to get into the \$12 class. After cattle and hogs worked upward to such high levels, there was a reaction, and undoubtedly the hot spell which swept the country in late July and early August had as much to do with this change as any other factor, because dressed meat trade suddenly lacked support and did not revive much until the temperatures dropped throughout the country.

It has been years since cattle, hogs, and lambs have been selling within such a narrow spread. At this time last year both lamb and cattle feeders were faced with the competition of cheap pork. The general livestock market remains rather nervous, but after each break the situation takes on a healthier undertone; yet there are few in the trade willing to predict any outlandish future prices, because of the unsettled world conditions. Generally speaking, it has been the practice among livestock commission men to tell their customers to let anything come to market when it is ready and not wait for any boom.

Lightweight steers continued to get the call, and as far as weights are concerned the preference is no different from that of a month ago unless it is for still lighter offerings. Some markets reported an increase in the proportion of fed steers from 1,200 to 1,325 pounds, but generally offerings above 1,400 pounds were not liberal, although based on trade requirements frequently were excessive. Chicago reported a rise of around \$2 on heavy long-fed steers during the last two weeks of July and then such kinds suffered a setback. The downward trend on light and medium weight steers was never of any great consequence, as most often the market was well supported, especially from 1,100 pounds down, and quite often the prices were boosted considerably.

Every section of the country reports an abundance of feed and grass, and perhaps that is the reason for the shortage of grass cattle on the market for the season to date. Nearly every country owner one talks with is not bearish, and with feed conditions almost perfect and cattle putting on good gains there is no telling when the "grass" run will start in earnest. So far Colorado and Wyoming have been sending in "trial" shipments which consisted mostly of cows, and a fair movement continues because of satisfactory current prices obtained, but the average owner apparently is in no mood to hurry his cattle to market. It is true that only a few months of the season remain, but they are the months during which marketings of grassers are normally liberal. It is easy to find men at the market willing to predict that there will be no big grass runs this fall, as their belief is that orderly marketing will prevail.

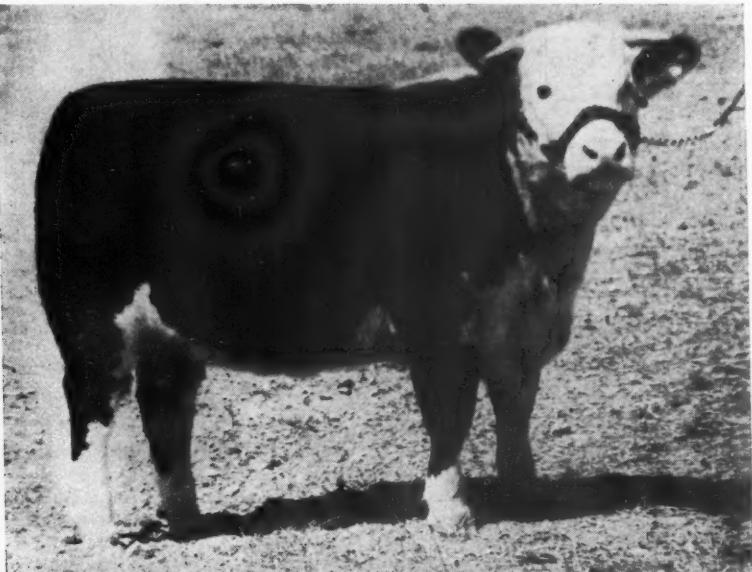
The movement of Canadian cattle into

the United States during the second quarter was less than half of the low-duty quota of 51,720 head of heavy cattle, and it is estimated that for the year these shipments will fall 100,000 head short of the annual quota of 193,350. Cattle entries from Mexico in the first five months of 1941 totaled 312,000 against 238,000 in a like period of 1940 and 333,000 for the corresponding time in 1939. Entries of heavy low-duty cattle totaled 25,477, 65 per cent of which entered at the reduced rate of 1.5 cents a pound, the remainder paying the regular duty of 3 cents. Those from 200 to 699 pounds totaled 253,000 and paid the regular fee of 2.5 per pound, while calves under 200 pounds totaled 33,742.

There were 6,567,000 pounds of fresh frozen boneless beef purchased for the Army up to a short time ago, and this to some extent replaced quarters of beef. The new change resulted in the use of 60 to 70 per cent less space and meant the handling of much less weight. In fact, it figured 30 per cent lighter. It appears to be a more efficient method, and in the future more shipping of beef for the Army in that form may result.

THE trend of cattle prices at Chicago from mid-July to mid-August was irregular, with grain-fed offerings performing more satisfactorily than other classes. Plenty of fluctuation featured the market for the month and no class was excepted. Fed steers at mid-August were largely 25 to 50 cents higher than a month earlier, while grain-fed heifers looked mainly strong to 25 cents higher with instances up as much as 50 cents. On the other hand, dry-lot cows held about steady, while those of a grassy and short-fed kind ruled chiefly 25 cents or more lower, some showing 50 cents loss. Bulls finished 50 cents or more lower, yet compared with the recent low spot were at least 25 to 50 cents higher. Calves

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and vealers were slightly under the month's high spot but unchanged from a month ago. Not only Chicago but many other markets reported an acute scarcity of strictly good and choice light veal calves, and as the month closed inquiry was remarkably broad.

Strictly choice-to-prime light and medium weight grain-fed steers at Chicago topped at \$13—a price also paid for highly finished 1,025-pound mixed steers and heifers. Any number of long-fed steers from 900 to 1,300 pounds were cleared at \$11.50 to \$12.50, with some 1,239- to 1,354-pound Colorados at \$12.75 to \$12.80. Some other light steers made \$12.80 to \$12.85, while the bulk of the long-fed heavies on the low spot sold at \$10.85 to \$11.75 which compared with those later at \$11.50 to \$12.25. Some 1,506- to 1,661-pound bullocks were noted at \$11.25 which were graded low choice. There were 1,525-pound steers from Nebraska at \$12 and slightly lighter ones from South Dakota at \$11.60. Rough but good 1,704-pound South Dakota offerings had to sell at \$10.50. Taking the month as a whole, there were not many grain-fed steers below \$10.75. Common grass-fat steers sold at \$7.75 to \$8.50. Only 7,000 head of western grass cattle of all classes were reported the second week of August.

The recent top at Omaha on grain-fed steers was \$12.40, paid for some averaging 1,318 pounds, while some lighter weights scored \$12.15 to \$12.25 and many from 1,350 to 1,400 pounds cleared at \$10.75 to \$11.10. Strictly choice steers fed eight months were noted frequently at \$11.75 to \$12 as against medium short-feds at \$9.50 to \$10.40. Best fed yearling steers at Kansas City landed at \$12.65 to \$12.75, other 1,160- to 1,260-pound steers of high finish making \$12.40 to \$12.50 and some 948-pound Colorados, \$12.50. Choice 1,457- to 1,507-pound bullocks sold at \$11.85 to \$12.25, and medium-to-good steers usually were taken at \$10.50 to \$11.50. Some choice-to-prime Missouri-fed mixed steers and heifers topped at \$13. Common-to-medium grass-fat steers ranged from \$8 to \$10.25, some 1,457-pound Kansas-grazed Texas selling up to \$10.40. Medium short-fed steers at Sioux City were obtainable at figures below \$10, but strictly choice-fed yearlings sold as high as \$12.40 and \$12.50, with several loads of 987- to 1,317-pound steers at \$12.25 to \$12.35. Denver reported 998-pound choice fed steers to \$12.15, flat; others averaging 1,230 pounds at \$12.60, freight paid. Any number of loads of good-to-choice steers went out from that market to the west coast at \$10.75 to \$11.90, with late sales usually much above \$11.

Both light and heavy fed heifers made \$12.75 at Chicago, and many good-to-choice loads crossed the scales at \$11 to \$12.50, while short-fed and grassy kinds most frequently cleared at \$9.50 to \$10.50. Dry fed cows sold up to \$9.50, but usually the range and native grass-fat cows had to sell below \$8.75, with many common and medium offerings at

\$7.50 to \$8. Heavy sausage bulls sold up to \$10 and then broke back to around \$9 but recovered later to a \$9.25 to \$9.40 basis. There were frequent sessions when strong-weight cutter cows landed as high as \$7.50 and quite often light canniers were to be had materially below \$6, shelly kind selling at \$5 and below. Vealers topped at \$13.50 during part of the month but on late days it was mostly a \$12 to \$13 market for good-to-choice kinds, comparable heavy killing calves selling at \$9 to \$10.50.

Prime 892-pound Kansas fed heifers reached \$12.90 at Kansas City, where several loads of long-fed Colorados were reported at \$12.25 to \$12.65. Medium-to-good heifers were most numerous at \$9.50 to \$11.25. Common-to-medium grass-fat heifers made \$7.25 to \$9.50. Omaha reported some 1,023- to 1,166-pound Canadian cows at \$8.40 and a load of western rangers averaging 1,275 pounds at \$8.85, others selling generally at \$7.75 to \$8.60 and dry-fed offerings in a limited way passing \$9. Best grain-fed heifers there made \$12 and other good-to-choice arrivals sold generally from \$10.50 to \$11.65, a medium grassy type landing below \$9.50. Best dry-lot heifers at Denver scored \$12 to \$12.10 and many loads were taken at \$10.75 to \$11.90, short-fed kinds going downward from \$10.50 and common-to-good grass-fat lots clearing at \$8 to \$10. Most of the cows for beef purposes sold at \$7.25 to \$8.25 but several loads from Colorado and Wyoming went at \$8.35 to \$8.75 and an outstanding 1,148-pound load from Wyoming reached \$9. Medium-to-good sausage bulls after the market receded sharply and recovered somewhat sold at \$8 to \$8.75 at Missouri River points and at Denver.

SEVENTEEN PER CENT MORE cattle were on feed in the Corn Belt August 1, according to a report by the Department of Agriculture, and this was the largest increase compared with a year earlier ever recorded, these reports having been issued since 1928. The number on feed was the largest since the drought period in 1934. The increase in Iowa and Nebraska figured 25 per cent, with a gain of 35 per cent in South Dakota and only 5 per cent for Kansas. The eastern Corn Belt indicated an 11 per cent increase and the western section, 21 per cent. Many feeders reporting admitted that most of the increase was in cattle on feed since before January 1, while those in the feed-lots less than four months amounted to 26 per cent. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt from all sources were of record size the first quarter and in the second quarter from public stockyards stood the largest since 1930.

One man who conducts a livestock auction, when commenting on the number of cattle on feed, said, "I am not surprised, because people from everywhere have been seeking stocker and feeder cattle and current prices offer no check to buyers. Only recently at a Wyoming auction a man accompanied by his two sons and wearing homespun clothes arrived in a 1916 car. He was a determined bidder and alone purchased over \$10,000 worth of cattle for which he paid cash drawn from his own wallet. After everything was settled he drove off, and the car carried an Illinois license."

Stocker and feeder cattle at Chicago continued to find a comparatively good outlet, although on breaking fat cattle markets the demand at times slowed down. Any shortening of the receipts or

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Records provided for in the book are:

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2. An inventory record of live-stock and feeds.
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5. A cash budget estimate, by months, for the coming year.
6. A record of items receivable and payable.
7. Financial summaries at the end of the year.

The following types of records of the year's operations are also provided for:

1. A record of the livestock counts, the sales, purchases, weights, etc.
2. A record of the amounts and dates of the use of feeds for the different classes of stock.
3. A record of land leases.
4. A record of the use of range.
5. The use of hired labor for different kinds of work.
6. A memorandum of weather conditions, the dates of the more important farm and ranch operations, etc.

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an advance in fat cattle brought out the country buyers, and they offered plenty of competition to killers on short-fed animals, as straight range grassers to date are not ample for their requirements. Mid-August found stocker and feeder classes generally steady to 25 cents higher than a month earlier and around \$1.50 to \$2 above a year earlier.

Common-to-good stock steers were reported at \$8.50 to \$10.75, although a few very common lots sold down to \$7.50. Medium-to-low choice heavy feeders sold at \$10.25 to \$11 and choice light feeders scored \$11.25 to \$11.50. Some choice 850-pound barley-fed Montanas went at \$11.25 and lighter heifers in the same consignment went out at \$11. Other stocker classes were in very limited supply at Chicago. Omaha buyers gave up to \$12 for choice 546-pound Wyoming stockers and took other high-grade yearlings at \$11 to \$11.50. Some 725-pound feeder steers sold at \$11.40 but medium-to-good grades were usually secured at \$9.25 to \$10.75. Good-to-choice 500- to 600-pound heifers at Omaha were obtained at \$10 to \$10.50, with a top of \$10.75, while medium-to-good 830- to 945-pound cows went out at \$7 to \$7.25. Stock calves averaging 211 pounds sold up to \$14, but most others with more weight cleared downward from \$12.50 and good heifer calves were taken at \$10.75 to \$11.25.

Good-to-choice 850- to 1,075-pound feeder steers at Kansas City landed at \$10 to \$11 and medium-to-good grades registered at \$8.50 to \$10.50 where weights were usually lighter. Some common steers went out below \$8, but choice yearlings were noted at \$11.25 to \$11.50. Common-to-choice heifers were taken by country buyers at \$8 to \$10.75. Some Kansas cows with calves at sides sold at \$8.50. Best steer calves around 350

pounds and below made \$13.50 to \$13.85, including 310-pound Oklahomas at \$13.75. Bigger calves were most numerous at \$12.65 down, but very light weights reached \$14 and choice heifer calves scored \$11 to \$12.

Choice 631- to 757-pound yearling stock steers at Sioux City made \$11.25, while most of the medium-to-good steers on country account scored \$9.50 to \$10.75, with a few at \$11. Light heifers made \$10 and choice 375-pound steer calves reached \$13.25. Denver reported the bulk of stocker and feeder steers at \$9 to \$11 and a top of \$11.50, while heifers sold downward from \$10.50, only common lots going at \$8.50 and below. Common-to-good cows went out at \$6 to \$7.85. Most of the steer calves sold at \$11 to \$12.75, but lightweights made \$13.50 to \$14. Good and choice steer calves in mid-August at Fort Worth were quoted at \$10 to \$12.50 and comparable heifer calves at \$9 to \$11, although some averaging 246 pounds reached \$12. Yearling stock steers were most numerous from \$10.50 down.

THE tendency of hog prices has been downward ever since the top hit \$12, but the market has been fairly well supported so that sellers made no excessive concessions. Many in the trade are not anticipating any particular advance for the next little while, as pork cellars are not overloaded and the buying side will make every possible effort to keep the market in check. Cold storage holdings as of August 1, while heavier than a year ago, were considerably below July 1. Lard holdings on August 1 were over 40,000,000 pounds smaller than a month earlier.

Prices for butcher hogs at Chicago which averaged 240 pounds down at mid-

August were largely 15 to 40 cents lower than a month earlier, while heavy barrows and gilts were generally 50 to 65 cents off, indicating that lighter weight hogs are in best demand. Packing sows were 35 to 65 cents lower, but those above 400 pounds suffered the most loss and were hardest to move at the time. Current hog prices are in comparison with a level around \$7 a year ago.

Top of \$11.70 at mid-August on the Chicago market was paid for hogs within the weight range of 180 to 220 pounds, best around 300 pounds selling below \$11. The bulk of good-to-choice 180- to 270-pound butchers landed at \$10.75 to \$11.65, and those below 160 pounds went generally at \$10.25 to \$11. Good-to-choice sows from 270 to 360 pounds cleared at \$9.90 to \$10.40 and good sows with more weight bulked at \$9.25 to \$9.85. West coast markets continue on a high level, and only recently \$13 was registered at several points.

THE lamb crop on August 1 stood highest on record and was estimated at 34,549, by the Department of Agriculture, standing 5 per cent larger than the previous record crop of 1940 and 13 per cent above the average of the ten years, 1930-39. The new record applies to natives as well as rangers, and the sharp increase was a result of a 10 per cent increase in the number of breeding ewes and a record percentage lamb crop which stood at 90.8, up 6.7 from the ten-year average. The native crop was placed at 11,826,000 and that of the thirteen western states at 22,723,000.

Texas and South Dakota showed the largest increases among the western states, and for the first time the Texas crop exceeded 5,000,000 head. The percentage gain for the other eleven western states was less than 3 per cent. Weather and feed conditions were exceptionally favorable for the production of a large lamb crop, and flocks were in good condition at breeding time.

There was some rise in slaughter spring lamb prices during August but the upturn was not so sharp as reported a year ago; but that was not unexpected, because of the relatively high recent level as compared with last year. Buyers have not been bullish despite more moderate receipts, and it is evident that the movement of dressed lamb is not as extensive at this time. Although spring lamb values worked up from the low time in July, there was considerable fluctuation in the trade and at mid-August as compared with a month earlier the selling level was around 25 to 50 cents lower at Chicago. Fed yearlings were not very numerous and held generally steady. There was a marked scarcity of slaughter ewes and such offerings advanced 25 to 50 cents, despite a loss in lamb prices for the same period.

Because of an abundance of feed in practically every section of the country, it is certain that the demand for feed-

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ing lambs and breeding ewes will continue good some time ahead. Rising prices apparently have no checking influence, as buyers on the ranges are paying the season's tops for feeding lambs and the light supply of feeding lambs at the public markets is snapped up almost instantly. A short time ago bids were much below \$10 for feeding lambs on the range; but recently sales were noted at \$10 and materially above, some passing \$10.35 at mid-August and ewe lambs scoring \$11 and even higher. Colorado lambs are moving in slightly larger volume at Denver, but to date the feeder end has been very small and at most markets buyers must depend upon Idahos and natives.

Choice closely sorted Washington spring lambs at Chicago sold at mid-August at \$11.75 to \$11.85 and earlier many loads scored \$11.50 to \$11.65. Other strictly good range lambs sold at \$11 to \$11.25. Most of the good-to-choice natives sold at \$11 to \$11.40 but some were reported at \$11.50 to \$11.60. Choice Colorados at Denver scored \$11.60 frequently, but quality of rangers from elsewhere was not so high and these had to sell chiefly below \$11.25. Medium-to-choice yearlings at Chicago made \$8.50 to \$9.50 and slaughter ewes sold up to \$5.25, although the bulk of good-to-choice kinds landed at \$4 to \$5. There were any number of ewes at various other markets at \$4.50 to \$5, and Kansas City reported a new high at \$5.15. Good-to-choice feeding lambs at many of the markets sold at \$10.50 to \$10.85, although some late sales were reported at \$11 to \$11.10 at Chicago and up to \$11.25 at Omaha. Good native feeding lambs usually went at \$10 downward. Very short-term breeding ewes at Omaha scored \$4 to \$5, while solid mouthed offerings scored \$5.50 to \$7 and yearling kinds landed at \$9.50 to \$10.

MORE MILK THAN EVER

An all-time record for milk production on United States farms was set for the first six months of 1941, according to Department of Agriculture records. Production was about 5 per cent greater than for the first half of 1940 and amounted to nearly 60,000,000,000 pounds for the half year—59,813,000,000 this year compared with 57,084,000,000 pounds last year, says the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Horse population on United States farms reached its peak in the 1910 census with 19,833,113. Mule population reached its peak in 1925 with 5,680,897. As of April 1, 1940, the census showed 10,086,971 horses and 3,844,560 mules on United States farms—a total of 13,931,531. This compares with 13,383,574 horses and 5,353,950 mules—a total of 18,737,524 ten years earlier.

We are having a good year and stock looks fine.—W. L. KINGSTON, Sr., Reeves County, Tex.

WOOL TRADE QUIET BUT PRICES UNCHANGED

By H. W. F.

ANYTHING BUT ACTIVITY WAS noted in the wool trade recently, but the movement was moderate and prices were not inclined to change much. Mill consumption probably will continue large, but many mills have completed arrangements so that they are in a position to handle commitments. Auctions held in the wool producing areas were well attended, but buyers were somewhat indifferent and complete clearances were not recorded, partly because growers considered bids inadequate. Much of the 1941 domestic clip has been sold by producers by auction or direct bids.

It has been estimated by the Textile Economics Bureau that, in the course of a year, 265,000,000 pounds of new or virgin wool, 10,000,000 pounds of reprocessed wool, and 75,000,000 pounds of reused fabric are used.

Total domestic production of wool in 1941, the quantity of wool shorn and to be shorn, is placed at 399,941,000 pounds. This is the largest production for the United States on record and about 3 per cent larger than 1940 and 9 per cent above the 1930-39 average. The number of sheep shorn and to be shorn is estimated at 48,900,000 head and the average weight of wool per sheep at 8.18 pounds, both new records.

Shorn wool production in the native or fleece wool states was called 108,517,000 pounds from 14,759,000 sheep. Production was up in the west north central and south central states and down in the north Atlantic and south Atlantic states. Production in the thirteen western sheep states is estimated at 291,424,000 pounds from 34,141,000 sheep.

Volume of business in wool at Boston the second week of August was rather limited, as some curtailment was noted because of a strike among wool handlers and scattered strikes in some mills. Prices were irregular with an easy tone in fine grades and a strengthening tendency in coarse grades. Fleece wools' call improved but the market was irregular. Combing three-eighths blood sold at 45 to 46 cents, in the grease; combing quarter blood, 45 to 47 cents. Semi-bright fleeces of three-eighths and quarter blood made 40 to 43 cents.

Good French combing territory wool was fairly active at \$1.03 to \$1.05, scoured basis. Graded lines fine territory running bulk short French combing went at \$1; original bag lines of bulk fine territory made 98 cents to \$1.03; combing three-eighths blood, 90 to 92 cents; combing quarter blood, 85 to 87 cents.

Prices were inclined to ease on twelve-month Texas wools, and some better kinds were held at \$1.05 to \$1.07, scoured basis, but lines of ordinary character went at \$1.03 to \$1.05. Quotations were nominal on eight-month Texas wool.

The low sort of adult mohair had a fair demand at 50 to 53 cents, but finer sorts were slow and kid sorts quiet. Original bag Texas mohair was quoted nominally at 62 to 63 cents for adult and 82 to 85 cents for kid.

Prior to 1900, the soy bean was planted only in United States gardens as a curious plant from the Orient, but now, forty years later, the manufacture of soy bean oil, cake, and meal, according to the census, is a \$44,000,000-a-year industry before the manufactured value of products from these soy bean materials is taken into account.

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MANY HIDE SALES AT CEILING LEVELS

By H. W. F.

SINCE THE HIDE MARKET SETLED down slightly, more action developed and many sales were made at ceiling levels. Offerings of native steer hides frequently were below requirements and some orders were filled by acceptance of combination packs. Sales to outside tanners in the big packer spot market the first week of August totaled over 42,000 hides and were from April-to-July take-off. Two large packers sold 50,000 calfskins of July take-off at the ceiling price of 27 cents for northern heavies and 23½ cents for lightweights, while another concern sold 1,800 July heavies. Packers wanted production figures for July before making allotments on unfilled orders at full ceiling prices for calf and kip skins. Hides from matured animals the last week of July totaled 80,000, as packers are moving current take-offs and desire no accumulation.

Production of shoes in July was the largest on record for the seventh month of any year and nearly as large as the record for any month. Demands upon the shoe industry will continue above normal, but with hide prices stabilized prices to the consumer should not rise, although other factors enter into the situation as well.

Late in July there was some modification in the price ceiling order on hides, calfskins, and kipskins. A tentative price schedule was issued for the benefit of the producers on the Pacific coast who are not so close to the principal markets. A permanent scale will be adopted after conferences with buyers and sellers. The allowance was made for freight charges from the west coast and the special short trim used on calfskins taken off in that area. The prices are 23½ cents on skins weighing 13 to 15 pounds; 26 cents on those weighing 6 to 13 pounds, and \$1.25 a skin for those under 6 pounds. All but the latter are priced on a pound basis. In line with west coast practice, calfskins and kips originating in the Pacific coast area but not short trimmed must conform to the price maximums established for Chicago city calfskins and packer kips.

Quotations at the middle of August stood at 15 cents for heavy native steer; extra light steer, butt branded steer, heavy Texas steer, light native cow, branded cow, Colorado steer, while native bull was placed at 12 and ½ cents. Prices now permitted are unevenly higher than a year ago, in an average way showing about 5 cents gain. Packer calfskins were quoted at 27 cents and packer kipskins at 20 cents. Country hide dealing was dull. All-weights were quoted at 12¾ to 13 cents; extremes, 14¼ to 14½ cents; branded, 11 to 11½ cents; and bull, 6½ to 7 cents.

Feeders For Sale?

OME cattle feeders have already paid a premium this year for July delivery. By October their cattle may be considered a bargain. Who knows?

Regardless of when or how cattle are sold to Corn Belt feeders, the Producer Agencies are ready and anxious to find buyers or to fill orders quickly and satisfactorily.

Try this easy and satisfactory method of selling feeder cattle or lambs. Write for details.

National Live Stock Marketing Association

160 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Ill.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	Aug. 1, 1941†	July 1, 1941	Aug. 1, 1940	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	58,736,000	54,529,000	31,816,000	27,762,000
Cured Beef*	13,167,000	13,908,000	10,188,000	13,390,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen	3,225,000	3,638,000	3,342,000	2,105,000
Frozen Pork	257,793,000	326,176,000	217,910,000	142,173,000
Dry Salt Pork*	112,526,000	105,317,000	94,140,000	87,448,000
Pickled Pork*	248,615,000	272,400,000	236,638,000	228,713,000
Miscellaneous	72,227,000	74,645,000	77,251,000	65,407,000
Total Meats	761,289,000	850,613,000	671,285,000	566,998,000
Lard	334,499,000	374,747,000	303,208,000	168,187,000
Frozen Poultry	81,132,000	85,573,000	82,415,000	63,846,000
Creamery Butter	178,526,000	120,246,000	123,628,000	137,838,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	12,219,000	11,530,000	12,211,000	11,551,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

LIVESTOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	July 1941	1940	First Seven Months 1941	1940
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,217,580	1,199,960	7,759,869	7,134,830
Calves	479,619	536,892	3,218,294	3,365,205
Hogs	2,036,259	2,258,800	17,716,898	19,582,139
Sheep	1,885,491	1,894,277	11,867,363	12,053,046
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	440,575	512,004	2,893,469	2,717,407
Calves	164,226	210,694	1,150,433	1,299,260
Hogs	559,739	648,696	4,632,175	5,344,514
Sheep	923,994	921,327	5,168,938	5,279,600
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	181,211	245,854	1,388,913	1,220,040
Calves	53,746	60,937	395,741	387,088
Hogs	53,913	33,057	365,055	297,487
Sheep	240,918	214,040	1,065,900	962,964
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	967,531	821,795	5,909,442	5,392,975
Calves	445,023	457,347	3,131,758	3,109,211
Hogs	3,005,684	3,218,904	26,318,656	28,219,678
Sheep	1,568,689	1,447,528	10,358,444	9,776,828

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Aug. 15, 1941	July 15, 1941	Aug. 15, 1940
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$11.50-12.75	\$10.75-12.25	\$11.50-12.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	10.75-11.75	10.25-11.50	10.25-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	12.00-12.75	11.50-12.25	11.50-12.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.00-12.00	10.50-11.50	10.25-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	9.00-11.25	9.25-10.50	7.75-10.25
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)	11.25-12.75	10.75-12.25	10.00-12.00
Heifers—Good-Choice	10.75-12.50	10.50-12.00	9.75-11.50
Cows—Good	8.00-9.25	8.25-9.00	7.00-8.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	11.50-13.00	11.00-12.75	10.25-11.75
Calves—Good-Choice	9.00-10.50	8.50-10.50	7.75-9.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	10.00-12.25	10.00-12.00	8.50-10.75
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	7.75-10.00	7.75-10.00	6.75-8.50
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	11.35-11.70	11.40-11.65	6.50-6.90
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	11.00-11.50	11.10-11.50	9.00-9.25
Yearling Wethers (Shorn)—Good-Choice	8.75-9.50	8.75-9.50	7.25-8.00
Ewes (Shorn)—Good-Choice	4.25-5.25	3.75-4.75	2.75-3.75

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	Aug. 15, 1941	July 15, 1941	Aug. 15, 1940
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$17.00-18.00	\$16.50-17.50	\$18.00-19.00
Steer—Good	16.00-17.00	16.00-16.50	16.50-18.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	17.50-18.50	17.00-18.00	17.50-19.00
Steer—Good	16.50-17.50	16.50-17.00	16.50-18.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	18.00-19.00	17.50-18.50	17.50-19.00
Yearling Steer—Good	17.00-18.00	16.50-17.50	16.50-18.00
Cow—Commercial	14.00-15.00	13.50-14.00	13.00-14.50
Veal and Calf—Choice	18.00-20.00	16.00-19.00	14.00-18.00
Veal and Calf—Good	16.00-19.00	15.50-18.00	13.00-17.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Spring Lamb—Choice (all weights)	18.00-20.00	21.00-23.00	20.00-22.00
Spring Lamb—Good	17.00-19.00	19.00-22.00	18.50-21.00
Ewe—Good	9.00-10.00	9.50-10.50	8.00-9.00
Ewe—Commercial	8.00-9.00	8.50-9.50	-----
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	24.00-25.50	23.50-25.00	20.00-21.00



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ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN CATTLE IN BEST AUGUST 1 CONDITION

THE AUGUST REPORT OF THE Denver regional livestock office of the Agricultural Marketing Service showed feed on western ranges as continuing in good to excellent condition—the best since 1927; seasonal decline of ranges less than usual; heavy growth of range forage maturing under favorable conditions to make a good supply of fall feed; and best August 1 cattle condition on record.

The relatively high range feed condition was general throughout the western area. July was a generally favorable month for the maturing and curing of the plentiful feeds. High range grasses starting late improved and furnished good summer feed. Desert winter ranges had good growth of feed. Favorable weather and moisture resulted in heavy seed crops on native grasses and recovery of semi-depleted ranges. Stock water supplies were very good, except in limited local areas.

In Montana and the Dakotas ranges were good, with feed drying and curing. Western Nebraska and western Kansas had very good feed and favorable fall prospects. Pasture conditions in the eastern Dakotas, eastern Nebraska, and eastern Kansas declined more from hot, dry weather than did western sections of these states. Range feed conditions and fall feed prospects in Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico were the best since 1928. In Idaho, Oregon, and Washington conditions were much above average, except in limited low pasture areas where fire and dry weather had some unfavorable effects. In Utah and Nevada ranges were unusually good, and both low and high ranges had heavy growth. In Arizona and California there was heavy growth of cured feed on low ranges, very good feed in higher areas, and good supplies of field and pasture feeds. Hay and feed crops will be larger than last year and the average in practically all the western states.

Condition of western ranges was 93 per cent, compared with 95 per cent last month, 80 per cent a year ago, and 76 per cent for the 1931-40 average.

Cattle enjoyed the highest condition reported for August 1 in nineteen years of record. Cattle and calves will show better than average weights and finish. Fairly active local and Corn Belt demand for cattle and calves was reported. Few areas reported any necessity for forced movement because of short feed or financial conditions. In the Great Plains area from Montana and North Dakota to Texas, cattle numbers were below the 1934 levels, and some reports were that size of herds may be increased to utilize the large supply of feed. On the other hand, there may be

some tendency to take advantage of present prices. Osage and Flint Hill pastures were very good and cattle made excellent gains.

Sheep and lambs were in the highest August 1 condition since 1928. Conditions were very favorable except in Texas, where rank growth of feed and worms caused a decline. Early lambs from the Northwest were moving in good volume, showing heavy weights and good finish. Late lambs made excellent gains and will show above average weights at delivery time. Contracting of feeder lambs was active and demand for ewe lambs for replacement purposes good.

The Geological Survey reports that in the northern group of western states, from the Dakotas to the Pacific Northwest, stream flow continues to average between 40 and 80 per cent of normal. In the southern group from Texas to California, stream flow at representative gaging stations ranges between 98 and 435 per cent of normal and water supplies continue especially favorable. In southern California the water level of the Baldwin Park well in Los Angeles County rose from an elevation of 286.05 feet on January 1 to 320.20 feet on July 31 and was still slowly rising on August 12. This level is the highest since 1922 and has been exceeded only six times during the past thirty-eight years.

CROP ESTIMATES SHOW INCREASE

The Department of Agriculture on August 12 estimated the 1941 corn crop at 2,587,574,000 bushels, compared with the 1940 crop of 2,449,200,000 bushels. The estimate for July was 2,548,709,000 bushels. Average yield was indicated at 30.1 bushels an acre compared with 28.3 bushels in 1940. Wheat production was put at 950,953,000 bushels, comprising 684,966,000 bushels of winter wheat and 265,987,000 bushels of spring wheat. Production of wheat in 1940 totaled 816,698,000 bushels and the 1930-39 average was 747,507,000 bushels. Yield per acre on winter wheat was estimated at 17 bushels an acre, compared with 16.3 bushels last year. Spring wheat was estimated at 16.2 bushels an acre compared with 13.1 bushels last year. Other estimates: Oats, 1,148,162,000 bushels (1,235,628,000 bushels in 1940); barley, 346,057,000 bushels (309,235,000 last year); rye, 46,462,000 bushels (40,601,000 last year); grain sorghums, 128,731,000 (121,371,000 last year).

All taxes in 1940 totaled \$14,300,000,000, according to the Census Bureau. Each person's share averaged \$100, of which \$39 were federal taxes, \$27 state taxes, and \$43 local government taxes. Each family's share of tax collections averaged \$410.

WHAT IS GOOD MANAGEMENT OF WESTERN RANGE LAND?

DEFINITION OF GOOD RANGE
management: Management of land so as to secure the greatest current return consistent with proper soil and moisture conservation and undiminished future returns. (In case the land is not in its highest state of productivity, the word "increased" is substituted for "undiminished" in the definition).

To accomplish the objectives of proper soil and moisture conservation and undiminished future returns, it has been found necessary to allow at least 25 per cent of the palatable forage to remain on the ground at the end of the grazing season in average years. This is necessary for several reasons. In the first place, the reserve of forage will provide a reservoir to be drawn upon in years of low forage production—a very necessary precaution if the number of stock or the amount of range available cannot be adjusted from year to year to meet current fluctuations in forage production. Conversely, in years of more than average forage production, the amount left on the ground should be proportionately larger.

In addition to providing a reservoir of feed, forage left on the ground forms a mulch to hold snow, increase the penetration of rain water, prevent soil erosion, and decrease evaporation, all of which add to the supply of soil moisture which is usually the limiting factor in plant growth, or the "bottleneck of production" on western ranges.

Perennial grasses store their food reserves in their roots, but it is manufactured (from water and mineral nutrients from the soil and carbon dioxide from the air) in the leaves in the presence of sunlight. Therefore to maintain plants in a thrifty condition, with a reserve of food in roots for quick, vigorous, early spring growth, abundant seed production, and vigorous growth of underground rootstalks, a supply of foliage must be maintained throughout most of the growing season. Forage grasses constantly kept grazed to the ground cannot compete with weedy unpalatable plants which are less closely grazed, and range deterioration results. Perennial grasses are naturally dominant throughout most of the non-forested range country and if given a chance will produce abundant cheap forage and maintain their dominance over their less desirable weedy competitors.—TED HYDE, Idaho.

RURAL POPULATION OLDER

In connection with farm population reports by the census, the department of Agriculture points out as of interest the changing age picture. The 1940 Census shows a materially older population on the farms than was the case ten years earlier. The number of children under twenty showed the rather startling decline of approximately 1,400,000 in the

decade. On the other hand, the working age group, twenty to sixty-four years old, increased roughly 1,000,000. The upper age group, over sixty-five, increased by approximately 400,000. The presumption, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is that these figures reflect a slowing down of migration away from the farms.

ARGENTINE MEAT PRODUCTION

Meat production in Argentina in 1940 totaled 5,194,000,000 pounds—145,000,000 under the 1939 total. This was made up of 4,623,000,000 pounds of beef, 209,000,000 pounds of pork, and 362,000,000 pounds of mutton and lamb. Cattle slaughter for export was 2,121,000 head—16 per cent under 1939 and smaller than in any year since 1935. Cattle slaughter for domestic consumption was 4,863,000 head—1 per cent below 1939. Recent estimates show cattle numbers in Argentina as between 33,000,000 and 36,000,000 head. Domestic consumption of meat in 1940 amounted to 77 per cent of the quantity produced. Per capita beef consumption is 276 pounds. Per capita consumption of beef in the United States during 1940 was 55.2 pounds.

MEXICAN CATTLE IMPORTS UP

Cattle entries into the United States from Mexico in the first five months of 1941 totaled 312,000 head compared with 238,000 in the same period of 1940. Entries of heavy low-duty cattle amounted to 25,477 head, 65 per cent of which entered at the reduced rate of 1.5 cents a pound, the remainder paying the regular duty of 3 cents. Entries of cattle of 200 to 699 pounds totaled 253,000 head, as against 189,172 for the period last year, paying the regular duty of 2.5 cents per pound for this class, while entries of calves under 200 pounds totaled 33,742 head, against 23,913 last year. Imports of the latter weight are restricted to an annual quota of 100,000 head from all countries at the reduced rate of 1.5 cents, all in excess paying a duty of 2.5 cents.

PROHIBITS HOG EXPORTS

Canada now prohibits exports of live hogs and pork except to the United Kingdom and British possessions. The prohibition, established in order to meet current commitments and reported increased British requirements of Canadian Wiltshire sides, does not apply to purebred hogs for breeding purposes. Exporting packers are also required to reduce distribution of bacon for consumption in Canada to 25 per cent below the weekly average level of 1940.

Production of plows for tractor use has passed production of horse-drawn plows in the United States, according to the census.

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For full particulars write CARSTENS PACKING COMPANY, P. O. Box 1636, Tacoma, Washington.

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1.00 The Westerner (livestock)
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If you have worked hard all your life and want to retire gracefully, investigate this property.

Hotel cost \$30,000 to build. Will sell all for \$3,750.

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Increase occurred in both the native and western sheep states, resulting from an increase in the number of breeding ewes, which were up about 1 per cent from the previous year, and a record percentage lamb crop—90.8 compared with 87.6 in 1940 and a ten-year average of 84.1. The native lamb crop is estimated at 11,826,000 head, and the crop in the thirteen western sheep states, 22,723,000 head. Over half the increase in the western lamb crop is in Texas and South Dakota, both of which have record crops.

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CATTLE ON FEED IN CORN BELT LARGEST SINCE 1934

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Increased numbers are shown for all states, ranging from 6 and 5 per cent in Ohio and Kansas, respectively, to 25 per cent in Iowa and Nebraska, and 35 per cent in South Dakota. The estimated increase of 17 per cent compares with estimates of 16 per cent increase on April 1 and 11 per cent on January 1.

Indications are that most of the increase this year is in relatively long-fed cattle—cattle that have been on feed over seven months. About 40 per cent of the cattle on feed August 1 had been on feed over seven months compared with about 31 per cent in August last year. About 33 per cent had been on feed from four to seven months this year as against 29 per cent last. The number of short-fed cattle on feed for fewer than four months was only 26 per cent this year compared with 40 per cent last year.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, both from stockyards and direct, into the Corn Belt, which were of record size for the first quarter of this year, tended to drop off somewhat in the second quarter. However, shipments into the Corn Belt states inspected through stockyard markets in the second quarter were the largest since 1930, and the total of all shipments during the first half of 1941 probably were the largest for all years.

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